

Tape: 173

CC 334

Side I Paul Blackburn's WBAI program, "Contemporary Poetry," with John Wieners reading.

1-43 introduction by Blackburn.
44-66 Wieners begins reading: The Mole Prepares Solitude
67-74 Evening Discloses None
75-107 Dreams of the Day
108-160 Impressions of Milton
161-221 Revere Beach
222-230 Two Little Pieces in a Chinese Way
231-256 Procrastination
257-310 Personal Piece
311-342 A Song (for Diane DiPrima's new musical).
343-394 Prose
395-448 Nightboat to Cairo
449-478 Sonnet
479-512 5/8
513-544 Rereads Two Little Pieces
545-578 Cocaine Poem
579-685 The Acts of Youth
686-923 A Poem for Painters
924-995 A Poem for Cocksuckers
996-end blank.

Side II Blank.

AN INDEX TO THE PAUL BLACKBURN TAPE COLLECTION

The Paul Blackburn Tape Collection represents one of the great resources to modern literary history. The poet, Paul Blackburn (1926-1971) was, in addition to his talents as poet, translator and editor, a great supporter of an ongoing oral tradition in poetry. He organized and attended poetry readings in New York City during the fifties and sixties at St. Marks, Le Metro, Deux Megots, Max's Kansas City and other bars and clubs. He organized his own poetry radio show, "Contemporary Poetry" on WBAI in New York. And he collected tapes from his friends and from these readings throughout his life, maintaining what is now recognized as one of the largest oral history collections in the country.

At his death in 1971, UCSD purchased Paul Blackburn's entire Archive, including poetry manuscripts, notebooks, letters and his tape collection. Paul Dressman and I have spent the past year listening to all of his tapes, annotating which poets read and which poems are read. We found that there are a wide variety of tapes which fit, more or less, into six categories: 1) whole tapes of Paul Blackburn reading in public and in private; 2) tapes of group readings or lectures in public; 3) recordings of conversations among Blackburn and his friends; 4) recordings made from the radio and television (such significant events as the first Sputnik orbit, the first Moon landing, presidential inaugural speeches, etc.); 5) taped "letters" from friends living in various parts of the world; 6) miscellaneous music and sounds. This latter category is interesting if only for locating the particular city ambiance in which Blackburn lived (and wrote poems) day-to-day.

Michael Davidson
June 23, 1975

Paul Blackburn Audio Collection

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