

Tape: 148

Side I Bernadette Meyer and Michael Brownstein
reading at St. Marks, June 7, 1967.

	Meyer
1-38	Two Dollar Bill
39-76	The Escalins
77-87	Pope John
88-134	Dante
135-196	Alamas 8
197-270	Boats
271-343	Bottle
344-452	Counterhatch
	Brownstein
453-515	The Umbrella and the Sword
516-534	untitled.
535-585	Against the Grain
586-645	The Plains of Abraham
647-667	Massachusetts
668-754	Coincidences
755-806	Fingertips
807-872	Florence's Fine in the Summertime
873-897	Zebra
898-940	Summertime
941-end	A Story

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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