

Tape: 39

CC 198

Side I Ed Sanders and Joel Oppenheimer reading
at the Five Spot Cafe, February, 1964;
Robert Creeley reading, no date or place
listed.

1-407 Sanders
five sections of Poem from Jail.
Gobble Gang Poems.
Incantation for the Revival of Dead Osiris

407-578 Oppenheimer
Home Thoughts
A Grace
The Riddle
The Copout
Peire Vidal at 32
other poems.

578-end Creeley
poems from the book, For Love.

Side II Creeley reading continued; Charles Olson
reading, no date or place listed.

10110 Creeley
poems from the book, For Love.

110-242 Olson
In Cold Hell In Thicket
The Distances
Maximus to Gloucester, Letter 27
Maximus Home Again, Crying Out to All

242-end 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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