

Tape: 29

CC 186

Side I John Wieners and Fielding Dawson reading
 at Le Metro Cafe.

1-304 Wieners reading, Sept. 11, 1963. Some of
 the poems read are as follows:

1-26 Two Abstract Poems
14-26 Dream of the Day
27-67 Impressions of Milton
67-74 Two Little Pieces in a Chinese Way
75-89 Procrastination
138-158 Nightboat to Cairo
189-200 Cocaine Poem
200-231 The Axe of Youth

311-end Fielding Dawson reading at Le Metro,
 Oct. 22, 1963.

311-381 Reflections of Steel
551-705 Essay on Fiction
705-747 Warm Simplicity
747-841 Her River
847-end Thread

Side II Continuation of Dawson reading; Blackburn
 reading; Blackburn tape for Ezra Pound.

1-194 "Thread," by Dawson.
194-226 Dawson reading Blackburn's poem, "The Well."
227-260 Blackburn reading the same poem.
274-end Blackburn tape for Ezra Pound.

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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