

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 218

Side I A Benefit at St. Marks for the magazine,
For Now, November 22, 1967.

0-225 Hannah Wiener (?) reading Pirate poems.
226-350 Tony Weinberger reading.
351-530 Ross Feld reading.
531-925 Donald Phelps (edotor of For Now) reading.

Side II For Now benefit continued.

0-100 Sam Abrams reading.
101-260 Fielding Dawson reading stories.
261-575 Robert Neuman reading
575-800 Jerry Greenberg (?) reading.
800-end blank.

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 218-A

Side I Blank.

Side II A continuation of tape 218, a benefit reading for the magazine, For Now, with Harry Lewis and Carol Berge at St. Marks, November 22, 1967.

Lewis
0-40 Variations on a Line, by Samuel Beckett
41-57 untitled.
58-120 Figures of Revelation
121-235 other poems.

Berge
236-400 Wait, I Can Explain Everything
401-685 other stories.

686-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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