

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 250

Side I Unidentified Poet reading, no date or place
 listed.

1-703 Three Connections
704-end blank.

Side II Lewis McAdams at St. Marks, no date.

1-37 untitled
38-52 The Animals
53-132 Portrait of Arthur Cravan
133-223 Three Mistranslations
224-256 Jour
257-309 Folk Songs of Our Land
310-340 The Bleakest Effect
341-397 At the Zoo
398-464 Trailer Park
465-522 October in the Railroad Earth
523-554 The Shore
555-593 Four Wheels Croak Malone
594-642 White Noise
643-730 The Bad Marriage
731-794 Winter Pneumonia
795-888 Collaboration
889-end Fish Frightened by Something Beneath the Bay

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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