

Tape: 32

cc 189

- Side I
- Joel Oppenheimer, Gil Sorrentino, LeRoi Jones, Jackson MacLow reading and conversing on a tape made by Blackburn to be sent as a birthday gift to Ezra Pound: this is the original, unedited version.
- 1-119 Oppenheimer
Balso's Blues
Studies in Arabia Deserts
Mr. Intelligence
Come On, Baby
- 120-344 Sorrentino
The Stellar Attraction
It's Only a Paper Moon
The Rugged Individualist
The Bullpen is Up and Throwing
Time Machine
- 344-490 Jones
Morning Purpose
Kenyatta
Listening to Mozart
Medicine Lady
Death is Not as Natural as...
Dada Zogi
- 490-800 MacLow
Villanelle on a Theme By Clare Booth Luce
The Silence Poem
For Hilda
Nuclei
Three Chinese Poems
Speech
Fouteenth Light Poem for Francis Wittin
- 801-end Oppenheimer (again)
Cartography
The Barbers
Blood
Mid-Passage
- Side II
- Paul Blackburn reading on tape for Ezra Pound.
- 1-275 translations from Provencal.
276-430 conversation with above poets.
431-end Sirventes
The Lottery
Mordecai
other poems.

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

Digitized version made available by



Credit: Works by Joel Oppenheimer and Gilbert Sorrentino used by permission of the poets' estates.

Copyright: Under copyright

Use: This work is available from the UC San Diego Library. This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the copyright holder(s). Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Library. Inquiries can be made to the UC San Diego Library program having custody of the work.

The UC San Diego Library makes effort to ensure that it has appropriate rights to provide access to content through the Digital Collections Website. If you are concerned about the rights or permissions, please review the Notice and Takedown Policy: <https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/p/takedown>.