

Tape: 18

CC 175

Side I Joel Oppenheimer, Le Roi Jones and Paul
Blackburn reading: probably recorded at
Blackburn's apartment in 1962.

	Oppenheimer
1-187	The Dutiful Son
188-225	Mare Nostrum
226-236	Blue Funk
	Jones
236-297	Black Dada Nihilismus
	Blackburn
297-550	Blackburn discussing poetry with others.
551-600	Bryant Park
600-end	The Field
	The Decision
	Oh, There are Doors
	other poems.

Side II Ed Dorn reading, July 11, 1962.

1-35	Are Desperadoes Only Desperate
36-60	The Deer's Eye, the Hunter's Nose
61-98	O, Don't Ask Why
99-138	The Sea Corner of the Eye
139-182	Hemlocks
183-225	conversation with others.
226-269	On the Debt My Mother Owed to Sears Roebuck
270-289	In My Youth I was a Tireless Dancer
290-303	The Poet Lectures Famous Potatoes
304-329	Unlike Music
330-345	Time Blonde
345-364	Wildblue Yonder
365-378	The Song is Ended
379-424	In the Morning
425-496	Geranium
497-610	Sousa
610-656	The Song
657-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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