

Tape: 129

CC 292

Side I Armand Schwerner reading at St. Marks,
January 18, 1967.

1-78 Daddy, Can You Staple These Two Stars...
79-124 Stilllife of the Man of Values
125-330 exerpts from The Domsday Dictionary
331-351 Two China Policy
352-367 Prayer
368-557 Probe
558-617 Asteroid Bomb
618-648 Nth Country
649-838 Minuteman
839-938 A.B.C. Warfare Defense
939-end Scurvy (a play).

Side II Schwerner reading continued.

1-173 from Tablets IV and V
174-305 from Tablets VI
306-536 from Tablets VII and IX
537-695 Zoology
696-end Prologue in Six Parts, I to IV (incomplete).

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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