

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 257

Side I	WBAI Memorial program for Paul Blackburn, titled "A Real Vision," includes reading and commentary by George Economou, Clayton Eshleman, Armand Schwerner, Joel Oppenheimer, Rochelle Owens, Jackson MacLow, with tapes of Blackburn reading his own work.
4-33	introduction by George Economou.
34-76	Blackburn reads Shirley Temple
77-120	Meditation on the BMT
121-169	Clayton Eshleman on Blackburn
170-322	Armand Schwerner on Blackburn
324-386	Joel Oppenheimer on Blackburn
388-402	Rochelle Owens on Blackburn
403-504	Blackburn reads Pre-Lenten Gestures
505-631	O, Shake It Up, Baby
632-646	The Details
647-end	Jackson MacLow on Blackburn (incomplete)
Side II	WBAI program, continued, with MacLow, Octavio Paz, Robert Kelly, Jerome Rothenberg, and Blackburn reading from tapes.
1-37	MacLow comments continued
38-111	Octavio Paz on Blackburn
112-236	Blackburn reads Provençal translations
238-277	Robert Kelly on Blackburn
278-312	Jerome Rothenberg on Blackburn
313-383	Blackburn concludes the program, reading.

## 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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