

Tape: 43

CC 202

Side I Robert Duncan reading in Brooklyn,  
May 15, 1964.

1-21 introduction.  
22-76 Night Scene  
77-135 Two Presentations  
136-185 Shelley's Arethusa  
186-286 After Reading H.D.'s Hermetic Definitions  
287-337 Returning to the Rhetoric of an Earlier Mode.  
338-401 Ballad of the Forfar Witches  
402-439 Country Wife Ballad  
440-523 Duncan talking  
524-647 Set of Shelley Hymnes  
648-685 From the Mabinogian  
686-727 New Poem  
728-756 Sonnet I  
757-773 Sonnet II  
774-790 Sonnet III  
791-886 Cypresses  
887-934 Heart Deepened to Change  
935-1,013 Structure of Rhyme 19  
1,014-1,025 Structure of Rhyme 20  
1,026-1,037 Structure of Rhyme 21  
1,038-end final poem in Roots and Branches.

Side II Robert Duncan reading continued.

1-13 The Artist as a Survivor  
14-25 Structure of Rhyme 20  
26-38 Structure of Rhyme 21  
39-102 Gaia  
103-120 introduction to Passages.  
121-227 Passages 1-6  
228-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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**Credit:** *Night Scenes, Two Presentations, After Reading H. D.'s Hermetic Definitions, Strains of Sight, Doves, Returning to the Rhetoric of an Early Mode, The Ballad of the Forfar Witches' Sing, A Country Wife's Song, A Set of Romantic Hymns, A New Poem (for Jack Spicer), Sonnet 1, Sonnet 2, Sonnet 3, Cyparissus, Part-Sequence for Change, From the Mabinogion, The Continent, Structure of Rime XX and Structure of Rime XXI* by Robert Duncan, from *ROOTS AND BRANCHES*, copyright © 1964 by Robert Duncan. Used by permission of New Directions Publishing Corp.

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