

Tape: 105

CC 269

Side I Fielding Dawson reading, April 14, 1966.
Blackburn reading revisions of earlier
work, May 17, 1966.

1-28 Fielding Dawson, excerpt from novel
(continued from beginning of Side II).

28-240 Fielding Dawson reading "A Continuity,"
"They Came Upon Land," "They Went into
the Wonderful Warm Water."

240-784 "The Face in the Casket."
784-end Blackburn reading revisions of "Separa-
tion," "Convince Me," "Blizzard."

Side II

 Opens with Dawson reading excerpt from
novel (to 423). Blackburn reading.

423-447 Blackburn (cont.) "Wargames."
447-551 "Mediterraneo"
551-590 Ritual X
590-602 Scoffing it
602-647 The Deposit, The Price.
647-672 SAM
672-683 untitled
685-716 Interview (satire).
716-761 Scotch for Breakfast.
761-791 The Answer
791-851 Newsclips 1."
851-860 The Consolation
860-887 The Crossing
887-897 The Young
897-931 The Bones
931-end Out

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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