

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 221

Side I Robert Kelly reading at St. Marks,
December 27, 1967.

0-15 An Exaltation for Charles Olson
16-150 Song 14
151-200 Paul's Connection
201-435 For the Commonwealth
436-500 excerpts from Story
501-700 three poems for Gail
701-end from Book of Luck.

Side II Kelly reading continued.

0-10 untitled poem
11-50 Poem About Kelly's Aunt
51-95 from The Common Shore.
96-280 Sonnets 1, 2, 8.
281-400 from The Common Shore.
401-430 untitled poem.
431-480 Sonnet 17
481-560 The Old Conservationist
561-700 from The Common Shore.
701-750 Palinode
751-end Sonnet 18 (incomplete).

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 221-A

Side I A continuation of tape 221, Robert Kelly
reading at St. Marks, December 27, 1967.

0-215 "this poem has no title"
216-end blank.

Side II 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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