

Tape: 81-A

cc 245

Side I Paul Blackburn reading at The Poetry Center of the 92nd St. YM--YWHA, November 29, 1965; includes

1-55 Planz introduction
 56-128 Bryant Park
 129-180 Faces I
 181-189 Directions to Get There
 190-231 Plaza Real with Palm Trees
 232-250 The Interview with F. Scott McNutt
 251-282 The Proposition
 283-293 Caterine at Evening
 294-313 The Guns of October
 314-324 The Slogun
 325-341 Spring Again
 342-367 She Holds His Hand
 368-414 Poor Dog
 415-487 At the Well
 488-529 Torch Song for John Spicer
 530-550 The Procedures
 551-707 Out into the Bay by Night
 708-885 Pre-Lenten Gestures
 885-end blank.

Side II John Logan reading at The Poetry Center, same date.

1-50 introduction.
 51-97 Song on Dread of a Chill Spring
 98-196 Lines to His Son on Reaching Adolescence
 198-404 Spring of the Thief
 405-560 Poem Slow to Come on the Death of Cummings
 561-649 Three Seattle Poems/ Three Moves
 650-766 Poems for La Bouche
 767-1,064 Lines for a Kind of Orphan
 1,065-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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