

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 196

Side I

Frank Lima reading at Dr. Generosity's,
March 28, 1970; Donald Phelps reading
at Max's Kansas City, March 28, 1970.

Lima

1-13 Demitasse
14-30 February
31-48 Land of a Thousand Dances
49-57 Scorpio Rising
58-72 Summer: A Love Poem
73-114 Salad Exit
115-146 Prospero
147-211 others.

Phelps

211-243 introduction by Fielding Dawson
244-300 introduction by Donald Phelps (including
recommendation of Manny Farber's paintings)
301-413 "The Simple Ecology of the Soul"--a review
concerning Joel Oppenheimer's poetry.
414-597 Earth Artist
598-804 "There is a Little Girl We Know"--about
Little Orphan Annie comic strip.
805-985 "Baggy Pants"--about J.R. Williams,
cartoonist.
998-1,133 Libra
1,134-1,244 Pisces
1,245-end introduction to the Ringer novel.

Side II

Donald Phelps continued; Andrei Cordescu
reading at Dr. Generosity's, April 4, 1970.

Phelps

1-335 from Ringer

Cordescu

336-346 Winter in Istanbul
347-352 untitled.
353-362 The General Strike
363-373 City
374-379 Poem for Antonin Artaud
380-385 Passport
386-396 Sagittarius
397-407 Saturn
408-625 others.
626-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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