

Tape: 162

cc 323

Side I Paul Blackburn's WBAI program,
"Contemporary Poetry," with Paul Carroll
reading (tape recorded in 1962) and
Blackburn reading.

1-47 Blackburn introduction to Carroll.

Carroll

48-94 The Night Train to Kansas City
95-156 An Exorcism on My 35th Birthday
157-198 Tertulian Addresses the Men of Carthage
199-286 It is Better to Have Been Born
287-382 Father
383-490 Mother, the Muse of Us All

Blackburn

495-568 Here They Go
569-681 Affinities II
682-704 Cafe at Night
705-749 The Once-Over
750-815 It Might as Well be Spring
816-900 Clickety-Clack
901-end Bryant Park

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

Digitized version made available by



Copyright: Under copyright

Use: This work is available from the UC San Diego Library. This digital copy of the work is intended to support research, teaching, and private study.

Constraints: This work is protected by the U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.). Use of this work beyond that allowed by "fair use" requires written permission of the copyright holder(s). Responsibility for obtaining permissions and any use and distribution of this work rests exclusively with the user and not the UC San Diego Library. Inquiries can be made to the UC San Diego Library program having custody of the work.

The UC San Diego Library makes effort to ensure that it has appropriate rights to provide access to content through the Digital Collections Website. If you are concerned about the rights or permissions, please review the Notice and Takedown Policy: <https://library.ucsd.edu/dc/p/takedown>.