

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

Tape: 25

- Side I
- A tape letter from Clayton Eshleman to Paul and Sara Blackburn sent from Kyoto, Japan. Letter includes conversation between Gary Snyder, Cid Corman, Clayton Eshleman, Will and Ami Petersen. Also included are poems read by Snyder, Corman and Eshleman.
- 1-293 Conversation.
293-467 Eshleman reading the poetry of Corman, Zukofsky, Blake.
467-648 Eshleman reading his own poetry: includes "Phrases," "Tea," "After Love," "Rock," "The Exorcism," "Spiders," etc.
648-718 Conversation.
718-end Eshleman reading more of his own poetry and some of Crane, Trakl, Creeley.
- Side II
- Listed as "(at the Petersen's in Yase with Will and Ami Petersen, Gary Snyder, Cid Corman, Kamaike, Barbara & me)"
- 1-54 Introduction & "The English Society."
54-85 Eshleman reading poems from E. Montale (trans. by Corman).
85-189 Snyder reading translations of Kenji Miazawa and read in original Japanese by Ami.
189-214 Kamaike singing a poem/song "Hometown."
214-294 Eshleman reading "Pecho de Pan" (from Residence on Earth by Neruda).
294-325 Eshleman reading translations from Montale.
325-380 Conversation.
389-397 Corman reading "Sarnath" by Joanne Kyger.
397-865 Eshleman reading poetry of Fernando Lemos, Claudia Lemos, Neruda and Vallejo.
865-905 Conversation.
905-end Eshleman reading his own poems.

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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