

Tape: 167

cc 328

Side I Paul Blackburn's WBAI program, "Contemporary Poetry," with Clayton Eshleman reading, February 26, 1965.

1-40 Blackburn's introduction
41-58 The Shore
59-72 The Orange Gate
73-89 Violent Sunset
90-111 Menstrus
112-139 The Sense of Beauty in New Ireland
140-159 For William Paden
160-202 Centers of Praise
203-232 The Mercies
233-272 Walking Out of the Chagall Exhibition
273-287 What is the Period?
288-307 Boughs and Xmas Berries
308-318 The Pain of the Hot Water in the Dish Trough
319-360 Making Cookies
361-410 Stones of Sangisangendo
411-459 The Heavens Over Tzurginomixa
460-587 A Little Essay
588-680 Rhythms
681-755 The Fox Hunt
756-end The Creation

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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