

Paul Blackburn Tape Collection

DM 206

CC 206

Tape: 47

Side I            A poetry tape anthology for Carolee Schneemann, made by Paul Blackburn, with Gil Sorrentino, Robert Creeley, Jackson MacLow and Paul Carroll.

                  Sorrentino

1-145            The Bullpen is Up and Throwing, I-IV

146-169        The Rugged Individualist

                  Creeley

170-220        For Love

221-238        The Whip

239-252        I Know a Man

253-317        Ballad of the Despairing Husband

                  MacLow

318-610        Alarm Clock

611-792        Namo Amida Bitsu

792-end        Paul Carroll, an introduction.

Side II           Robert Kelly and Paul Blackburn reading translations of Julio Cortazar's Cronopios, on a WBAI program.

## 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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