

6 Poems to ponder on National Poetry Day

From William Wordsworth to Stevie Smith, generations of English poets have been inspired by place.[Read more](#)

The MiniDisc revival starts here (maybe)

Sony launched the first MiniDisc players and recorders in 1992. MiniDiscs were small (around 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ " square) floppy-disk-style cartridges with an 80-minute recording capacity, intended to supplant the tape cassette format. Some major-artist commercial albums were issued as pre-recorded MiniDiscs, and the Library has a few examples of these in its...

Behind the Scenes of the Man Booker: a National Life Stories film

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Man Booker Prize, here at National Life Stories, we thought it would be a good moment to delve into our Oral History collections to see what we could find out about its history.

Recording of the week: Dennis Brutus

This week's selection comes from Stephen Cleary, Lead Curator of Literary & Creative Recordings. In this archive recording from the African Writers Club collection, South African poet and anti-apartheid activist Dennis Brutus reads the introductory poem from his debut volume *Sirens Knuckles Boots*. At the time of the book's publication...

Recording of the week: Ancient Evenings

This week's selection comes from Stephen Cleary, Lead Curator of Literary & Creative Recordings.

It is now 10 years since the death of Norman Mailer, one of the best-known and most widely read US authors of the post-war period. This week's recording features Mailer in discussion with Melvyn Bragg at the ICA, London, in 1983. Mailer's epic novel of ancient Egypt, *Ancient Evenings*, had been published just a few days previously. Mailer discourses on the 'class system' of Ancient Egypt, among related subjects. It didn't pay to be poor in those days either, apparently.

[Norman Mailer and Melvyn Bragg in conversation \(C95/55\)](#)



This recording comes from a [substantial collection](#) of talks and discussions held at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London between 1982-1993.

Follow [@BL_DramaSound](#) and [@soundarchive](#) for all the latest news.