

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.

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Listed Libraries of the North

Libraries have played in an integral part in our literary history. Often housed in grand public buildings, libraries face considerable pressures as heritage [Read more](#)

6 Evocative Literary Locations

Many authors and the characters they created have lived in and loved England,

evoking streetscapes, landscapes and buildings throughout their work.[Read more](#)

[Recording of the week: Wioletta Greg reads her poetry](#)

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

Polish poet and writer Wioletta Greg has attracted critical praise for her coming-of-age tale *Swallowing Mercury*, which was published in January this year by Portobello Books. For this week's 'Recording of the Week' we offer a unique recording of Wioletta reading her poetry, made by the British Library in 2012 at the poet's home on the Isle of Wight. The reading is in Polish, with English translations made and read by Marek Kazmierski.

[Wioletta Greg reading_C1340/79](#)



This recording is part of [Between Two Worlds: Poetry and Translation](#), an ongoing Arts Council-funded audio recording project conducted by the British Library in collaboration with the poet Amarjit Chandan.

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