

Recording of the week: why you should listen to the common eider duck

This week's selection comes from Eve-Marie Oesterlen, Lead Metadata Manager for the Unlocking Our Sound Heritage. As Lead Metadata Manager for the Unlocking Our Sound project I have less time than I would like to listen to the sonic treasures we retrieve from the vaults. One of my guilty pleasures,...

Recording of the week: Wax cylinder recordings of Nigerian music

This week's selection comes from Dr Janet Topp Fargion, Lead Curator of World and Traditional Music. Northcote Whitridge Thomas The Library's World and Traditional Music collections include some of the world's earliest ethnographic recordings, made on wax cylinders. Amongst these is a collection of recordings made between 1909 and 1915...

Recording of the week: painting Winston Churchill

This week's selection comes from Cathy Courtney, Project Director for Artists' Lives, and Camille Johnston, Oral History Assistant Archivist. Elsbeth Juda (1911-2014), was born in Germany. She and her husband Hans Juda (referred to as 'Hansie' in this audio extract) settled in England as the threat of Nazism grew in...

British Library Sports Word Of The Year 2019

Jonnie Robinson, Lead Curator of Spoken English, writes: This year marks the

sixth annual British Library Sports Word of the Year (SWOTY) review. While I can't claim it's a major fixture on the annual awards circuit, six does, at least, have some sporting significance: six games in a tennis set;...

AWATE: Finding Gems and Sharing Them

AWATE joined the British Library this summer as Artist-in-Residence for Unlocking Our Sound Heritage, the British Library's major project to digitally preserve and widely share the nation's rare and at-risk sounds. During his five-month residency, AWATE will use the extensive sound archive to weave together a long-form genre-bending musical piece...