(for Debbie Lancaster)
The lark descends
The panda scowls
The cheetah limps
The parrot growls
The beaver tires
The ant gives up
The bee is lost
The cat won’t sup
The salmon fall
Rhinoceri fret
Horses can’t gallop
Elephants forget
The world’s undone
Love’s labour’s lost
The heart beats still
In summer’s frost
The stilled heart beats
Through sorrow’s might
And memory’s pain
And shrouded sight
Then slowly slowly
On the wing
A lark ascends
Again, to sing
The lark ascends
The rhinos snooze
The salmon leap
The panda coos
Parrots parrot
Honeybees dance
Cheetahs race
While horses prance
Elephants remember
That beavers whirr
And ants march on
And kittens purr
So grief will thaw
Though never leave
So hearts will gladden
As they grieve

Emanuel E. Garcia, MD

Dr. Garcia (AE1A, University of Pennsylvania, 1986) is a psychoanalyst and the author of The Case of the Missing Stradivarius, a novel set in Victorian London. His e-mail address is: emanuelegarcia@gmail.com. Illustration by Jim M’Guinness.

In memoriam Edward D. Harris, Jr., MD