

1976

## At Work

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# poetry

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ARTUR MIEDZYRZECKI / POLAND

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## At Work

Gentle Locke sits down to write his famous treatise  
He sees tiny titmice alighting outside his window  
Each day he hangs a piece of suet for them  
Each day two scarlet cardinals appear  
And each day they fly away at his first movement  
Though he'd never chase them away they are so beautiful

When they return a moment later Locke holds his breath  
In front of him extends the landscape of England  
He looks at the snow cheerfully sparkling on the hills  
He hears from behind the reassuring crackle of flames in the fireplace  
He feels a blissful peace circulating inside

Suddenly his features harden and fury shoots from his eyes  
He remembers the Stuarts

## Dying Boxer

In the corridor from the locker room the slain boxers are coming toward me  
They march solemnly in their brilliant robes  
With their crushed ears plaster on their eyebrows hematomas on their brains  
bandages on their hands  
They are led by the world champions Kid Paret the splendid Cuban and  
Davey Moore the glorious American  
There is also the little Japanese Voshimi Kubo the superb technician and the  
lefthanded Englishman Lyn Jones famous for his ability to take a punch  
And the popular favorites from all countries with two Polish boys Lesniak  
and Kierula blond and frightened