

8. Arthur C. Clarke, *Profiles of the Future: An Inquiry Into the Limits of the Possible* (New York and Evanston: Harper & Row, 1963).
9. Dennis Gabor, *Inventing The Future* (London: Secker & Warburg, 1963).

THE SKYLARK

Stanley Mason

From foreign fields a sudden skylark soars.
Disconsolate wanderer, I halt incredulous
Under the tumbling cataract of its joy:
A paean, if ever there was one,
A paean packed in
A ridiculous handful of feathers, and now
Streaming out on the void.

The skylark circles,
Climbing into the lavender morning
Up the spiral stairway of its own song.

I stand amazed and am
For a while the phenomenon of the skylark,
My skylark, whom I would not wish to share
With Shelley's violet-eyed hysteria,
The slipshod hyperbole that so badly misses
The serene wonder of this morning climber.

And the skylark rises and rises,
Breaking all the laws of gravity and grief
Into the precipitous sky
Until I am only
A stone in a field
Beneath the towering pattern of its celebration.