

Two Poems by Lee Slonimsky

Silver Water

A dragonfly
first discovered
certain types of loops,
three hundred million years ago.

Flying over silver ponds
in those brief summer lifespans
they still explore today.

Their size has dwindled
oh so spectacularly
from eight foot wings
to several inches length,

wings that shimmer still
in the fading light of August
that turns silver water
to a kind of silk.

(Loops that bulge, and loops that narrow.)

These ancient mathematicians
have parabolas
in their potent blood.

King Geography

The mathematics of bird calls astounds:

some patterns as precise as DNA,
while others fluctuate. But hearing sounds
seems such a soft and kind *identity*,

compared to our rude nationalistic ways:
our flags and guns. Our cold geography.

Lee Slonimsky recently published his eighth collection of poems, *Lion, Gnat*, (Spuyten Duyvil Press, New York City). His journal credits include *The Carolina Quarterly*, *The Hiram Poetry Review*, *Measure*, *The New York Times*, *Poetry Daily*, *Slant*, and *Town Creek Poetry*. In 2016 he lectured at the Athens Academy in Greece on the topic, “Pythagoras and Poetry.”