

## Apples

by [Bonnie Thurston](#) in the [September 8, 2021](#) issue

In our local grocer  
I watch folks buy  
at vast expense  
tasteless, waxed  
Red Delicious.  
Surely that was not  
what the Virgin offered  
the Christ Child  
in Memling's diptych.

Unconsciously I begin  
internally to chant:  
Baldwin, Bramley Cox,  
Cortland, Gravenstein,  
Jonathan, Lodi,  
Macintosh, Melrose,  
Pippin, Rome, Russet,  
Stamen, Winesap.

I think of the variety  
grown by Amish farmers  
across the river,  
in the Sisters' orchards  
across the ocean,  
remember windfalls  
eaten with wasps.

If the snake offered  
Mother Eve an apple,  
I hope we did not  
surrender Paradise  
for a Red Delicious.

