

# Foerster, Breughel's Harvesters

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## Brueghel's Harvesters

Richard Foerster

Though they stoop and sweat  
outside a stinging circle  
that the pear tree affords ... though the mustardy  
sheaves  
of their morning's labor  
lie stiff in their ranks as battle-tallied dead . . . and  
though  
the tree itself, coiling  
ungracefully heavenward, past a blue steeple,  
splits  
their world with its axis,  
here is Eden after all which the artist makes  
us contemplate  
by planting in the foreground that husky, unkempt  
reaper  
with his legs splayed wide,  
forcing our gaze crotchward, to the solid drowse  
of his codpiece so casually  
unlaced, while another, nearby, holding summer-  
ripe fruit firmly to his lips,  
stares out at us, and eats.

## Pieter Brueghel, The Harvesters



"Brueghel's Harvesters" is from Foerster's collection *Trillium*.

See also:

| [William Carlos Williams, "The Corn Harvest"](#)

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