

Fetching Holly



THE MONTH OF DECEMBER: FETCHING HOLLY 1927 is another delightful winter scene, perfect for a Christmas card. In 1926 Spencer was commissioned by Chatto & Windus to provide 25 pen and ink drawings on domestic and pastoral themes for A Chatto & Windus Almanack for 1927. The works were printed at the Curwen Press, London and newspaper reviews called the drawings 'impish and attractive', 'charming' and 'delightful'. This was the only book he ever illustrated, and each drawing reflected some image from his family and home life. He had married Hilda Carline in 1925, so this image perhaps reflects their first Christmas together. It is squared up for eventual transfer to canvas, although this one remained in pen and ink.