

Quarter Day

Thomas Rowlandson



Description

Thomas Rowlandson (1756 - 1827)
Quarter Day

Inscribed lower centre: QUARTER DAY
Pen and ink and watercolour
13.2 by 9 ½ cm., 5 ¼ by 3 ¾ in.

Provenance:

Anonymous sale, Christie's, 25th November 1986, lot 77, where bought by the present owner

Quarter days were the four days of the year when rent was due so families were often evicted by their landlord or left their accommodation in a hurry to avoid paying rent due. It was also the days when school terms started and servants were hired. The quarter days were traditionally Lady Day (25th March - Feast of the Annunciation), Midsummer Day (24th June - Feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist), Michaelmas Day (29th September - Feast of St Michael) and Christmas Day (25th December - Feast of the Nativity of Jesus).