



Mary Had a Little Lamb

Date
c. 1863

Primary Maker
Thomas Nast

Medium
Graphite on paper

Description
Pencil sketches depicting the nursery rhyme, "Mary Had a Little Lamb." It is possible Nast's cartoon is a nod to Mary Josepha Hale, editor of Godey's Ladies Book and writer of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," who petitioned for Thanksgiving to become a fixed annual holiday. In 1863, Hale persuaded William Seward to draft an official Thanksgiving proclamation for Abraham Lincoln to sign. Nast later created a Thanksgiving-themed drawing in honor of the fifteenth amendment in 1869.

Dimensions
Composition/Sheet: 8 1/2 in. × 14 in. (21.6 × 35.6 cm)