

# NOW THE HOLLY BEARS A BERRY

Traditional 19<sup>th</sup> c. Cornish Carol

*"Now the Holly Bears a Berry"* or The "*Sans Day Carol*" or "*St. Day Carol*" is one of the many Cornish Christmas carols written in the 19th century. This carol and its melody were first transcribed from the singing of Thomas Beard, a villager in St. Day in the parish of Gwennap, Cornwall. The fourth verse is a translation from the Cornish version, "*Ma gron war'n gelln*". The lyrics are similar to those of "*The Holly and the Ivy*" and it is no. 35 in the Oxford Book of Carols.

According to the Oxford Book of Carols, the title the "*Sans Day Carol*" does not mean 'Carol Without a Day' nor is it a reference to '[All] Saints' Day'; rather, the song was taken down as 'St. Day in Cornwall'.

Jean Ritchie learned this in the United States, but it was not from her family tradition, so it is doubted to be of Appalachian origin..

~ *Tull*

