

Vignettes and Tailpieces

Vignettes or tailpieces were little pictures within writing that had a practical purpose - to fill in spaces

Bewick's woodblocks had no borders. He left them open so that he could be interpreted by the observer

Tailpieces - or tale pieces as Bewick called them filled empty spaces at the end of a page.

Bewick produced hundreds of scenes - boys flying kites, sailing boats on puddles, women chasing geese

Woodcuts were cheaper than those produced by copper or silver and this made his books more widely available.

Their miniature intensity is part of their greatness

One of his vignettes shows a cottage almost obscured by a finger print. This is Bewick's mark, drawing attention to the maker. It also reminds us just how tiny this work of art really is.