

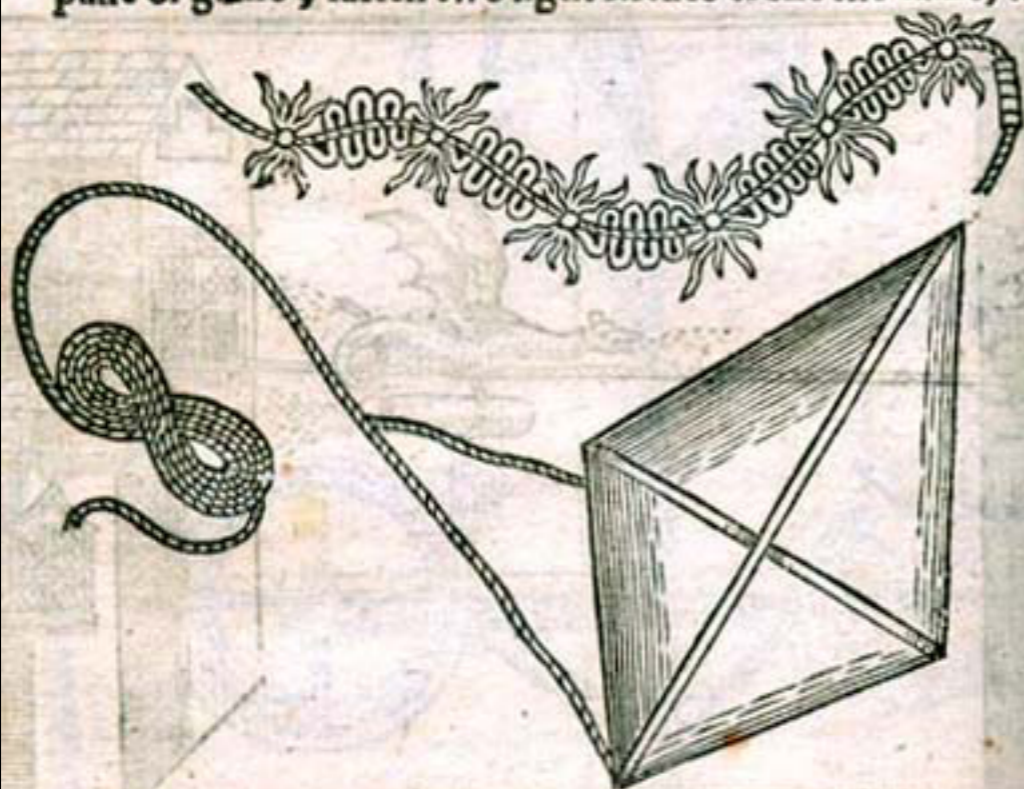
18th Century Material Culture

Kites

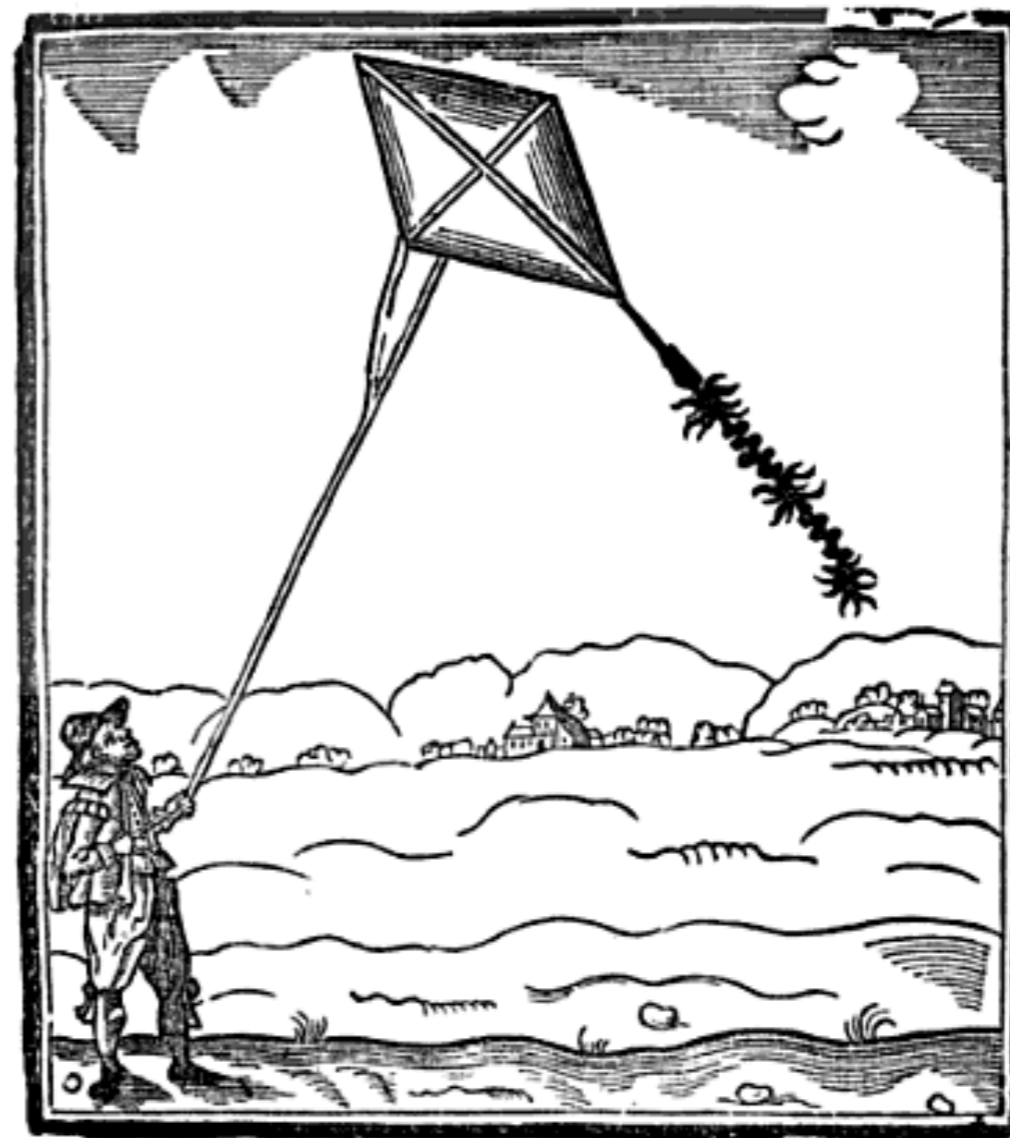


How to make fire Drakes.

YOU must take a peece of linnen cloth of a yard or more in length; it must bee cut after the forme of a pane of glasse; fasten two light stickes crosse the same, to



make it stand at breadth; then smeare it over with linseed oyle, and liquid varnish tempered together, or else wet it with oyle of peter, and unto the longest corner fasten a match prepared with saltpeter water (as I have taught before) upon which you may fasten divers crackers, or Saucif-



The Fiery Drake or Kite

Illustrations

From: "The Mysteries of Nature and Art" by John Bates 1635
(University of Glasgow)



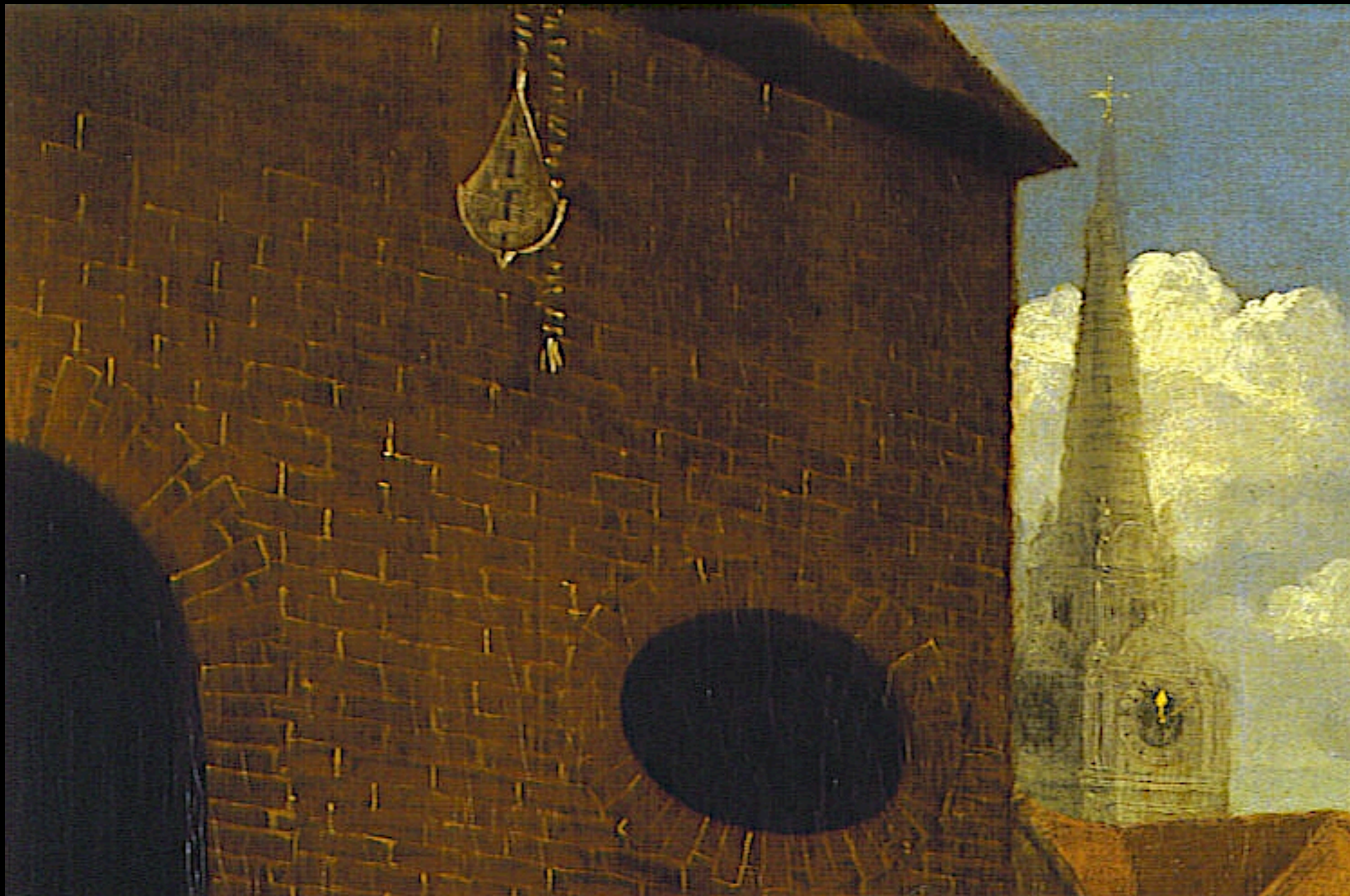
Christ's Hospital
by Benjamin Green c. 1736 - 1800
(The British Museum)



Air
by Nicolas Lancret c. 1730 - 1732
(Waddesdon)



Noon
by William Hogarth c. 1736
(Tate Galleries)



Noon
by William Hogarth c. 1736
(Tate Galleries)



Chinese Export / Dutch Hard Paste Punchbowl

c. 1737 - 1747
(Winterthur)



Two Boys Flying a Kite
by Johann Conrad c. 1740
(Private Collection)



The Figures 2/5th in: or 6.

SCIPIO

Flying the Kite
by Francis Hayman c. 1740
(Yale Center for British Art)



St. James's Park and Buckingham House, Looking West
by John Maurer c. 1741
(The Royal Collection)



St. James's Park and Buckingham House, Looking West
by John Maurer c. 1741
(The Royal Collection)



Children in an Interior
by Arthur Devis c. 1743
(Yale Center for British Art)



Children in an Interior
by Arthur Devis c. 1743
(Yale Center for British Art)



Master Stenninge
by Mason Chamberlin c. 1750
(Government Art Collection)



The 1750 English Kite Recreated
(Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)



A Dutch Boy with a Kite
Mid 18th Century
(Christie's)



A Dutch Boy with a Kite
Mid 18th Century
(Christie's)



Boys from Christ's Hospital & St. Margaret's Hospital
c. 1750 - 1780
(The British Museum)



Monsieur Le Roy de l'Académie des sciences et l'abbé de Saint-Rémi, Chanoine de Notre-Dame
by Louis Carrogis
(Chantilly, Musée Condé)



“The Paper Kite”
by Thomas Berwick c. 1752 - 1799
(The British Museum)



Plate from "Recueil de plusieurs jeux d'enfants Chinois"
by Jean Pillement, Engraved by P.C. Canot. London Published according to Act of Parliament Decr. 26. 1759
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



French Fan
c. 1750 - 1759
(Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)



George Fitzgerald with His Sons, George & Charles
by Johann Zoffany c. 1764
(Sotheby's)



George Fitzgerald with His Sons, George & Charles
by Johann Zoffany c. 1764
(Sotheby's)



John Griffiths Sculpit

Ad. Pranker's Engraving

Enthusiasm Displayed.

Authentic according to the Report of the Committee of the House of Commons, who were appointed to enquire into the Proceedings of the late General Pitt Rivers, in the Year 1764.

“Enthusiasm Displayed.”
by Robert Pranker, Published by John Griffiths 1765
(The British Museum)



English Enamel Plaque
c. 1765 - 1795
(Manchester Art Gallery)



Portrait du Mathématicien François Corbeau assis à une Table
by Jean-Baptiste-Jacques Augustin
(Musée du Louvre)



Two Boys with a Kite
by George Romney c. 1765 - 1775
(Private Collection)

PITT and PROTEUS, or a POLITICAL FLIGHT to the MOON.



QUEM DEUS VULT PERDERE, PRIUS DEMENTAT.

PITT and PROTEUS.

Mutata dicere formas.

CHOUSING, cheating, chopping, charging,
Proteus round the World was ranging;
When a Blast from Roscoe came,
Reverberating through the Name;
Fam'd also for Transformations,
Tares, Telling, Tricks, Tergiversations,
Pitt, pip'd at the Report,
Puff'd presently to Court;
When, clapping on a Highland Skit
To gain the Countenance of Pitt,
He ran a'nd fell to the Ring.

Then turning round and speaking loud,
He challenged Challenge from the Crowd.
" My Lord, if you're a Minx, turn out;
With Pitt's name oft I've had a Bout;
" And Charles could match me to a Hair,
" In changing into Bull and Bear:
" The Deuce is in't, if you can be
" A Match for Proteus more than he!"
In Pharaoh's Presence then, we're told,
Ev'n Pharaoh's Chiefs were brav'd, of old,
When Aaron's Rod, to crown the Jest,
Gav'd, gab'd, and swallow'd down the rest.
The Ring was clear'd, and Pitt began,
In Form and Presence of a Man;
Appearing in his public Glory
A Comet, and a Ring-Toy;

Declin'd himself to Roscoe's Rally,
And tusk'd the Nose of George Cully;
Then cou'd at once from talking big,
And tar'd a worming, whacking Whig;
Clas'd with the Best Professions
For German Generals and Conventions;
Unfold what'er he hid before,
And bore the form of Man no more.
Through th' Objects of the Brav Creation,
He next began his Transformation;
By Turns was Hog, Dog, Cur and Begg's,
A Russian Bear, a Prussian Eagle,
An English War-Horse at full Speed,
A prancing Hannoverian Steed;
The British Lion, now, he rear'd;
Now, as a Smithfield English

Now a CAPELLION changing Colour;
A ravenous CONTOUR now se'er the fuller;
From Beast to Bird, to Fish from Fowl,
A Bullard now, and now an Owl;
A Trout expecting to be tickled;
A Salmon—Pity 'twas not pickled!
And if he saw the — but spite,
Was first a TRAVELLING Crocodile.
While thus he play'd at full and loath,
A Jar had mark'd him for a Goole;
When, lifted up, he took his Flight,
A new Motion, a Paper Kite!
Fall to whose Tail was tied a Taper,
In Lacern all made of Paper.
Lord! how this change amas'd the —

Ev'n Bull, who paid here and there,
This Puff-board Patriot in the Air;
Blazing, a Meteor in the Skies,
Amusement to the vulgar Eyes.
Of gazing Gulls and credulous Crowds,
Who for their Passions in the Clouds;
And think by him to steer secure,
Their ministerial Cynosure!
But should he on our Noddies fall,
God bless us! 'twere the Devil and all!
For Proteus, struck with Shame and Wonder,
Owne his Defeat and truckles under.

"PITT and PROTEUS, or a POLITICAL FLIGHT to the MOON."

1767
(The British Museum)



The Bradshaw Family
by Johann Zoffany 1769
(Tate)



Master Smith
by Francis Cotes c. 1769
(Christie's)



Master Smith
by Francis Cotes c. 1769
(Christie's)



Dutch Pear Shape Kite
Dated 1773
(Dra;chen Foundation)



Print from "Elementarwerke für die Jugend und ihre Freunde"
by John Bernhard Basedow of Berlin, Germany 1774
(Colonial Williamsburg Foundation)



A Family Group in a Landscape
by Francis Wheatley c. 1775
(Tate)



The Entrance of Warwick Castle from the Lower Court.

Engraved from a drawing by J. Sandby del. & sculp.

“The Entrance of Warwick Castle from the Lower Court”
by Paul Sandby c. 1776
(The British Museum)



Two Boys & a Kite
by Thomas Berwick c. 1780
(The British Museum)

Winsor Castle of Sandby

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S. 6

Oppé (Sandby) 80 14604

Winsor Castle from the Brocas
by Paul Sandby c. 1780
(The Royal Collection)



Winsor Castle from the Brocas
by Paul Sandby c. 1780
(The Royal Collection)



South Terrace
by Paul Sandby c. 1780
(The British Museum)



South Terrace of Windsor Castle
after Paul Sandby c. 1780
(The Royal Collection)



South Terrace of Winsor Castle
after Paul Sandby c. 1780
(The Royal Collection)



Queen Elizabeths Gate at Islington

“Queen Elizabeth’s Gate at Islington”
by Benjamin Green c. 1780
(The British Museum)



A Boy, Two Girls, & a Kite
by Thomas Berwick c. 1784
(The British Museum)



The Dyson Children
by John Downman 1787
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)



“Songs of Innocence & Experience...”
by William Blake 1789
(The British Museum)



“Songs of Innocence & Experience...”
by William Blake 1789
(The British Museum)



A Scene with a Kite
1789
(The British Museum)



The Three Children of Richard Arkwright
by Joseph Wright of Derby 1791
(TATE)

The Kite, or the Fall of Pride

*My waking dreams are best concealed,
Much folly, little good they yield.
But now and then I gain when sleeping
A friendly hint that's worth the keeping.*

*Lately I dreamt of one who cried
"Beware of self, beware of pride;
When you are prone to build a Babel
Recall to mind this little fable."*

*Once upon a time a paper kite
Was mounted to a wondrous height,
Where, giddy with its elevation,
It thus expressed self-admiration:*

*"See how yon crowds of gazing people
Admire my flight above the steeple;
How they would wonder if they knew
All that a kite like me can do?
Were I but free, I'd take a flight,
And pierce the clouds beyond their sight.*

*"But, ah! like a poor pris'ner bound,
My string confines me near the ground:
I'd brave the eagle's tow'ring wing,
Might I but fly without a string."*

*It tugged and pulled, while thus it spoke
To break the string; at last it broke.
Deprived at once of all its stay,
In vain it tried to soar away;
Unable its own weight to bear,
It fluttered downward through the air;*

*Unable its own course to guide,
The winds soon plunged it in the tide.
Ah! foolish kite; thou hadst no wing;
How couldst thou fly without a string?*

*My heart replied, "O Lord, I see
How much this kite resembles me!
Forgetful that by thee I stand,
Impatient of thy ruling hand;*

*"How oft I've wished to break the lines
Thy wisdom for my lot assigns?
How oft indulged a vain desire
For something more or something higher.
And but for grace or love divine,
A fall thus dreadful had been mine."*

A Poem by Church of England Cleric, John Newton

August 4, 1770

(Drachen Foundation Journal)

Acknowledgements

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