

21H.418
Fall 2005

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT # 2

Was There a Printing Revolution?

Please submit responses to the following questions to the professor by 5 PM on the day of Lec # 3.

- 1) Ong, as we saw last week, argues that the great break in the history of "technologizing the word" occurred with the invention of writing. How would Eisenstein rebut this claim?
- 2) According to Eisenstein, what features of print culture explain its "revolutionary" impact?
- 3) Would Clanchy agree with Eisenstein that the introduction of printing technology in Europe ca. 1450 constituted a Revolution? Why, or why not?
- 4) While appreciative of Eisenstein's work, Anthony Grafton also has important reservations about her thesis. Discuss one or two of these reservations, and state why you do, or do not, agree with him.