

21H.418
Fall 2005

HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT # 3

English Chapbooks

*Please submit responses to the following questions to the professor by 5 PM
on the day of Lec #4.*

- 1) Using arguments provided by Spufford, evaluate the readers of early modern English chapbooks. Are they the same readers Eisenstein imagines for works of classical scholarship, religion, and science? Is it possible to generalize about the reading practices of English chapbook readers?

- 2) Consider English chapbook readers in light of Ong's arguments about orality and literacy. To what extent do traces of orality remain in the texts of the chapbooks?

- 3) Are there texts available in print or online today that resemble any of the excerpts that you read from *Samuel Pepys' Penny Merriments*? Name one or two publishing genres today that you think might be distantly related to the early modern chapbook, and state why you think there are similarities.