

## **First Paper Topic: Chapbook Analysis**

### **I. General Requirements**

1. Write a paper of at least ten pages in length, following the "specific requirements" below. A preliminary report on your paper, in which you provide the title of the chapbook you will study, and a summary of its contents, will be due electronically by 5 PM on the day of Lec #5. A hard copy version of the paper is due at the beginning of class of Lec #7.
2. Your paper must be computer-processed. The text should be double-spaced. Please give your paper a title, and write your name on the back of the last page. Do not write your name elsewhere on the paper. All pages should be numbered.
3. Citations to texts read in this course should be made in parentheses in your paper. For example, if you refer to a passage on page 13 of Elisabeth Eisenstein's *The Printing Revolution in Early Modern Europe*, indicate this in the following manner at the end of your sentence, after the period: (Eisenstein, 13) Full citations to any work not assigned in class should be made in footnote or endnote form. For more suggestions, see the study materials section.

### **II. Specific Requirements**

1. Select a chapbook from the list of chapbooks below. Some of these works are available online, through the Early Books Online (EEBO) resource, on the page of the MIT libraries. Others can be consulted in hard copy at the Houghton Library, the Rare Books Collection at Harvard. See the related resources section for a link to EEBO, and directions to the Houghton Library at Harvard.
2. Read the work, and provide the title and a summary of its contents electronically by 5 PM on the day of Lec #5.
3. Write a ten page paper on this work, due at the beginning of class of Lec #7, in which you address the following issues:
  - What is the source of the story? If possible, state how the chapbook version of the story differs from previous versions of the story.

- Summarize the contents of the chapbook.
- Who is the intended audience for the chapbook? (Here you may wish to draw on the work of Margaret Spufford we read in class, or Tessa Watt, *Cheap Print and Popular Piety, 1550-1640* (available at the reserve reading desk in Hayden.)
- In what ways does this work blend oral and print culture? Consider the work's content and its typographical conventions.
- Would your detailed study of this chapbook cause you to modify any aspects of Ong's argument about orality and literacy? Would it prompt you to rethink Eisenstein's notion of a "printing revolution"? (You must discuss either Ong or Eisenstein in your paper, but you do not have to consider both.)

### **III. List of Chapbooks**

#### **A. Early English Books Online (EEBO)**

*(These are some suggested titles from the EEBO. You may also browse the collection's holdings and propose another title, but you must get my approval before you proceed with your paper.)*

- Rycharde Rolle hermyte of Hampull in his contemplacyons of the drede and loue of god with other dyuerse tytles as it sheweth in his table. (1519)
- A counterblaste to tobacco (1604)
- Tarltons newes out of purgatorie Onely such a iest as his iigge, fit for gentlemen to laugh at an houre, &c. Published by an old companion of his, Robin Goodfellow. (1590)
- Robin Good-Fellovy, his mad prankes, and merry iests full of honest mirth, and is a fit medicine for melancholy. (1628)
- Keep within compasse Dick and Robin, there is no harme in all this, or, A merry dialogue between two or three merry coblers, with divers songs full of mirth and newes, which may very fitly be applyed to these times (1641)
- Topsie-turvy, hey-down-derry, or, The colledge of fools display'd and their capps tost at tennis in a jovial discourse, betwixt Merry Andrew and Poor Robin : in which, with other varieties : Merry Andrew to the life discovers the several humours, tricks and devices with which some folk use to delight themselves. (1672)
- The vvitch of the vvoodlands: or, The coblers new translation. Written by L.P. Here Robin the cobbler for his former evils, was punisht worse then Faustus was with his devils (1680)
- Tom Thumbe, his life and death wherein is declared many maruailous acts of manhood, full of wonder, and strange merriments: which little knight liued in King Arthurs time, and famous in the court of Great-Brittaine. (1630)
- Murder upon murder committed by Thomas Sherwood, alias, Countrey Tom: and Elizabeth Evans, alias, Canbrye Besse (1635)

- The complaint of Christmas· And the teares of Twelfetyde. (1631)
- A contention betwene three bretheren, that is to say, the vvhoremonger, the dronkarde, and the diceplayer to approue which of them three is the worste (1581)
- VVine, beere, and ale, together by the eares A dialogue, vvritten first in Dutch by Gallobelgicus, and faithfully translated out of the originall copie, by Mercurius Britannicus, for the benefite of his nation. (1629)

## **B. Houghton Library (Search Harvard's online Catalogue)**

*(Again, these titles are suggestions. If you find another title that interests you, clear it with me first.)*

- The comical budget of fun and frolic, containing all the most popular and new puns, jests, and witty sayings of the most eminent men. By Godfrey imcrackiana, esq. (Houghton Accessions \*44W-1223)
- A merry jest of the frier and the boy. (Houghton Accessions \*61-2112)
- A pretty dialogue betwixt Robin Hood and a begger. (Houghton Accessions \*61-2111 [Bound with \*61-2112.]
- The history of Goody Two shoes. (Houghton 25276.3\*)
- The famous and renowned history of the life and glorious actions of the mighty Hercules of Greece : his encount[e]ring, and overcoming serpents, lions, monsters, giants, tyrants, and powerful armies; his taking of cities, towns, kings, and kingdoms, etc. with many rare and extraordinary adventures, and exploits, wonderful and amazing. Also the manner of his unfortunate death, being the most excellent of histories. (Houghton Accessions \*59-202)
- The unknown, or, The horrors of Montaldo : a romance in which is related the unprecedented and wonderful adventures of Gonsalvo, who discovers that his parents have been inhumanely and secretly murdered by the perfidious tyrant Desparto. (Houghton 19464.37.25\*)