

## **FIFTH HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT:**

### ***English Chapbooks***

***Due electronically by week #7.***

- 1) Using arguments provided by Spufford, evaluate the readers of early modern English chapbooks. Were these the readers envisioned by Erasmus in *The Paraclesis*? Did they read their chapbooks the way Erasmus wanted Christians to read the *New Testament*? 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.