

Cake and Cockhorse

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In November 1977 Dr Margaret Spufford spoke to our Society on ‘Seventeenth Century Literature and Popular Print’. We were going through a crisis of finding a place to meet, and bizaarely but in fact very appropriately her talk took place in the cramped back bar of the Unicorn Inn on the west side of the Market Place. Appropriately because it was in just that building that John Cheney established his printing press in 1767. Now Professor Spufford, when we asked her to review Leo De Freitas’ *The Banbury Chapbooks*, she responded that her knowledge was of the seventeenth century, and she didn’t review books any longer. Over forty years of a very precious friendship allowed us to pressure her into our very privileged contribution (incidentally when we asked Leo who he would like to review his book, hers was the only name he suggested). You can judge for yourselves how limited her post-seventeenth century knowledge is!

Cover: An early Cheney chapbook illustration, and an early ‘misprint’. Adam and Eve are shown with navels!