

MATERIAL TEXTS IN EARLY MODERN ENGLAND

What was a book in early modern England? By combining book history, bibliography and literary criticism, *Material Texts in Early Modern England* explores how sixteenth- and seventeenth-century books were stranger, richer things than scholars have imagined. Adam Smyth examines important aspects of bibliographical culture which have been under-examined by critics: the cutting up of books as a form of careful reading; book destruction and its relation to canon formation; the prevalence of printed errors and the literary richness of mistakes; and the recycling of older texts in the bodies of new books, as printed waste. How did authors, including Herbert, Jonson, Milton, Nashe and Cavendish, respond to this sense of the book as patched, transient, flawed and palimpsestic? *Material Texts in Early Modern England* recovers these traits and practices, and so crucially revises our sense of what a book was, and what a book might be.

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for my mum

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