Tea and Dystopia in Special Collections

Featuring materials related to the One Book, One Campus book *Memory of Water* by Emmi Itäranta
Memory of Water
Emmi Itäranta “writes fiction in Finnish and English. ... Her award-winning debut novel, Memory of Water (Teemestarin kirja) was first published in Finland in 2012. She lives in Canterbury, England.” [Quote from back cover.]
Themes of the Book

- Tea
- Water and the shortage thereof
- Secrets
- Rewriting history
- Domination by dictatorship
- The military controlling access to water
“In the far north of the Scandinavian Union, now occupied by the power state of New Qian, seventeen-year-old Noria Kaitio studies to become a tea master like her father. It is a position that holds great responsibility and a dangerous secret. Tea masters alone know the location of hidden water sources, including the natural spring that once provided water for her whole village.”

“When Noria’s father dies, the secret of the spring reaches the new military commander ... and the power of the army is vast indeed. But the precious water reserve is not the only forbidden knowledge Noria possesses, and resistance is a fine line.” [Quote from back cover.]
"Dream of the Red Chamber ... , also known as A Dream of Red Mansions, The Story of the Stone, or Chronicles of the Stone ... is one of the masterpieces of Chinese fiction. It was composed sometime in the middle of the 18th century during the Qing Dynasty. The novel's authorship is attributed to Cao Xueqin (Cao Zhan). The novel is usually grouped with three other pre-modern Chinese works of fiction, collectively known as the Four Great Classical Novels. Of these, Dream of the Red Chamber is often acknowledged to be the zenith of Chinese classical fiction by scholars, although the novel as it survives is incomplete and completed by another's hand"—Wikipedia

Gift of: Shanghai Program Millersville University
"Only what changes can remain." [Quote from beginning of Part One]
“Earth has more water surface than land surface - but that does not mean we have all the water we want to drink. And right now, America is already pressing the limits of fresh water supply...” [page 54, Analog Science Fact/Science Fiction, September 1963]
“Water is the most versatile of all elements. ... Water walks with the moon and embraces the earth, and it isn’t afraid to die in fire or live in air. When you step into it, it will be as close as your own skin, but if you hit it too hard, it will shatter you.” [Quote from page 5]
“Death is water’s close companion. The two cannot be separated, and neither can be separated from us, for they are what we are ultimately made of the versatility of water, and the closeness of death. Water has no beginning and no end, but death has both. Death is both.” [Quote from page 5.]

“We are children of water, and water is death’s close companion. The two cannot be separated from us, for we are made of the versatility of water and the closeness of death. They go together always, in the world and in us, and the time will come when our water runs dry.” [Quote from page 113]
“The English Channel, the North Sea, inertial against the positive pull, reared up in a mighty tide one hundred feet in height, crashed with resounding fury upon the lowlands of England, transformed them in the twinkling of an eye to an inland sea of raging, tossing waters.” [page 29, Astounding Stories, June 1937]
“I had often tried to imagine how winters had been in the past-world. ... When I’d been six years old, I had read in a past-world book about snow and ice, and asked my mother what they were. ...” [Quote from page 39]
“‘A tea master has a special bond with water and death,’ my father said to me ... ‘Tea isn’t tea without water, and without tea a tea master is no tea master. A tea master devotes his life to serving others, but he only attends the tea ceremony as a guest once in his lifetime, when he feels his death approaching.’” [Quote from page 6]
“When a person drinks a cup of tea, how refreshed he feels! That is because of the reviving and strengthening quality of the leaf.” [Page 55]
“The tea house is a one-story building with low steps leading to wide open doors. These doors are really the walls of the house. They are pushed back during the day so that they leave the whole side of the house open.”[page 169]
“Water has no beginning and no end, the tea master’s movement as he prepares the tea doesn’t have them either. Every silence, every stillness is a part of the current, and if it seems to cease, it’s only because human senses aren’t sufficient to perceive it. The flow merely grows and fades and changes, like water in the iron cauldron, like life.” [Quote from page 31]
“The growth of business and businesslike habits, steadily justifying the ladies and pressing the dinner-hour farther round the clock, was not well received by the stomach. English internal engines, designed for refuelling every four and half hours, begin to labour when asked to run for six hours at a stretch. Once again wives and mothers took the situation in hand and found the remedy. They invented Afternoon Tea.” [page 97]
Afternoon Tea

Who wouldn't like to drink afternoon tea
Out in the garden just like these three?
With the song of a bird, and the hum of a bee,
And the sunflowers looking all eyes to see.

The little girls stirring their tea so sweet;
Tea in the garden is such a grand treat;
With a cool breeze blowing, and not too much heat—
And doesn't the teatray look charmingly neat!
“I will paint a second signboard to hang below ‘Comfort Cottage.’ It will be much more beautiful than the other, for it shall have a steaming kettle on it, and a cup and saucer, and the words ‘Tea Served Here’ underneath, the letters all intertwined with tea plants.” [page 156]
“Something novel for an evening’s entertainment would be a ‘Tea Test Social,’ which may be held in a church parlor. The letter T or its sound is the keynote to the whole. Have prepared for each person a folded card with pencil attached. Written or printed on the folded cards is the Tea Test.” [page 57]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>The Tea Test</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>What our forefathers fought for.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>A total abstainer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A carpenter’s instrument.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>“__________, thy name is woman!”</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The greatest thing in the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Forever and ever.</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Something new under the sun.</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>The mother of invention.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Faithful allegiance.</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>The crown of woman.</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>The best policy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>“Sweet are the uses of __________.”</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>The soul of wit.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>The “Four Hundred.”</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Mother Eve’s failing.</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>A witty retort.</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>To laugh.</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>The power of the age.</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Beauty’s temptation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>The religion of civilization.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
“At a quarter past five Miss Cunningham sailed into the Ritz. ... she led the way to the Japanese Garden ... [and] ordered oolong tea, toasted brioches and bar-le-duc ...” [page 602-603]
“’I wish I could dig all the way to the bottom [of the plastic grave]. Perhaps then I’d understand the past-world, and the people who threw all this away.’” [Quote from page 25]
This dystopian story written by Frederik Pohl and Lester del Ray under the pen-name Edson McCann asks the question: “how dangerous would it be to live in a rigidly risk-free world?” The four-part story was in Galaxy Science Fiction, June-September 1955.

Cover illustration by Edmund Alexander Emshwiler (Emsh)
“Not one grain of sand stirs without a shift in the shape of the universe: change one thing, and you will change everything.” [Quote from beginning of Part Two]
“'Let's get together for a little tea, a little chat,' Robbie Grant would say to the women he met, and many of them, knowing exactly what he meant by the little speech, accepted.” [dust jacket blurb]

From the Margaret C. Woodbridge Collection of Books “By a Woman Writt” established in her honor by Bruce Kellner, 2004
“The silence wasn’t just the silence of the empty spaces my parents had left behind, the lack of their breathing and words and footsteps inside those walls. It was also the silence of everything they had left untold and unsaid, everything that it was now up to me to learn and find out without them.” [Quote from page 137]
“... the present year ... was 2096: ... [Brian Van Anda had been born in 2020, seven years after the close of the Civil War, fifty years before the Final War, twenty-five years before the departure of the First Interstellar. ... He would recall his place of birth, New Boston, the fine, planned city far inland from the ancient metropolis that the rising sea had reclaimed after the earthquake of 1994.” [pages 83-84, Galaxy Science Fiction, November 1954]
“Secrets gnaw at the bonds between people. Sometimes we believe they can also build them: if we let another person into the silent space a secret has made within us, we are no longer alone there.” [Quote from page 161]
“The premature explosion of the seventeenth Moon-rocket ushered in the year 1972. There was nothing spectacular about the big bang which was modified by distance.” (page 8, Astounding Science Fiction, June 1948)
"’Why weren’t more past-world books preserved?’ I knew the tea master’s house had more books than any other in the village, and my parents had told me that they were rare even in cities. Few books were printed because of the price of paper, and past-world volumes were virtually impossible to come by, unless one had access to state libraries or military archives. At school we had only used pod-books.” [Quote from page 67]
“’But time travel must be possible,’ he said, ‘for I am a twentieth century man, and I am here in the thirty-first century.’ …
“’We know very little about the twentieth century,’ [Cordoban] said.” [page 72, Astounding Science Fiction, November 1948]
“For all my winter daydreams and snow-longing, I had never questioned what I had been taught at school and what the books said. I had taken for granted that what was generally considered to be true really was the truth, and nothing beyond that mattered. But what if it wasn’t so? What if the stories that remained were just darkened and distorted shards of a mirror - or worse: what if someone had deliberately shattered the mirror in order to change the reflection?” [Quote from page 64]
Herb Teas

“As chamomile and similar ones; if they cause a great deal of pain, or if they increase the pains, which the patient had before, give [raw coffee] ... If it has caused violent fits and convulsions in children, give [St. Ignatius’ Bean]...” [page 40]
Chamomilla.
Internal Use - Hypochondriac and hysteric affections, hysterical faintings, &c., also the bad effects of anger or passion. ..." [page 26]
“A circle only knows its own shape. If you ask where it begins and where it ends, it will stay silent, yet unbroken.” [Quote to begin Part Three]
“Water is the most versatile of all elements. It isn’t afraid to burn in fire or fade into the sky, it doesn’t hesitate to shatter against sharp rocks in rainfall or drown into the dark shroud of the earth. It exists beyond all beginnings and ends. .. Death is water’s close companion, and neither of them can be separated from us, for we are made of the versatility of water and the closeness of death.” [Quote from page 221]