

From rare books to Manga comics – *Future Memory* has it all!

Visitors can expect the unexpected at *Future Memory: National Library Recent Acquisitions* which runs until 1 August 2004 at the National Library of Australia.

Future Memory is an exhibition of more than 200 items that have been chosen from the vast amount of material added since 1999.

Items in the exhibition include rare books from the 16th and 17th centuries; an early 19th century map of the Pacific, a map of the British front from World War I and a satellite map of the Canberra bushfires; the *Ladies' guide in health and disease* 1908; photographs depicting Australian industry by Wolfgang Sievers and Tasmanian wilderness images by environmentalist Peter Dombrovskis; paintings by Eddie Mabo; *Courtship and Marriage*, a boardgame from the Victorian era; Manga comics from Japan; political cartoons by Alan Moir and Geoff Pryor; and sheet music from a single by Delta Goodrem.

Material comes into the collection through purchase, gift, bequest and

legal deposit.

Jan Fullerton, director-general of the National Library of Australia, commented on the breadth of the collection.

'Visitors will be captivated and surprised by what is on display. They will also be reassured that the records of the past and present are available for the future because they are held here in the National Library.'

Future Memory curator Margaret Dent spoke about the curating process. 'Choosing the items was both a joy and a challenge. We receive so much material each year and so many of the items have fascinating stories attached to them,' she said.

'The marvellous thing about an exhibition such as *Future Memory* is the infinite variety of ways that material can be combined to tell a different story. It also illustrates the many ways in which we acquire material, and more importantly the generosity of individuals and organisations who have donated to the collection.'



Photo by Greg Barrett (b. 1943)
Rachel Dougherty and Joshua Consandine 1999
National Library of Australia

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