

# BANKING ON DOVER

by Lorraine Sencicle

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Reviewed by JOHN OWEN

Of the many books on Dover, we have here in the tercentenary year of the Bank of England, an informative work on the part played by the banking families in the commercial development and prosperity of the town and port of Dover from 1685 to 1846.

The author has gone to great pains to tease out the banking element from available sources and has produced, in rather less than 200 pages, a very good read for all who are interested in the town's history. Her book successfully conveys the vibrant commercial activity of the area at the time and the innovative resourcefulness of the early business community. It is not surprising therefore to learn that Dover played a prominent part in the development of banking in England.

Part of the Minet family, arriving as Huguenot refugees from France in 1685, set up a trading and shipping agency business in Dover and by way of deposit facilities, receipts and bills of exchange led to the provision of a banking service; something of a rarity outside London at that time.

*Banking on Dover* traces the part played by such banking families as Minet, Fector and Latham in the commercial, political, civic and social life of the port of Dover.

The text is generously supported throughout by helpful illustrations, drawings and maps.

Many Dover mills of the period and the important shipbuilding industry feature with much else to interest the reader. This at a time when the town and port is yet again facing new economic challenges on the approach of the millennium.

*Banking on Dover*, in giving us a new perspective on our heritage, is dedicated to the *Dover Pageant 1994* which has 'banking' as its theme and is to be held in Connaught Park on Bank Holiday Monday, 2 May.

## COMPETITION

WRITE a short story of not more than 1000 words set in Dover in the future — at least 20 years from now.

Winning stories will be published in future issues of the Newsletter.

First prize will be a book token and a year's free membership of the Dover Society. Runners-up receive a year's free membership .