

32 records for Dover Borough held by the British Library in the Egerton MSS. and Additional MSS.)

Polls and nomination papers for *municipal elections* from 1708 onwards.

Over fifty boxes of *deeds and corporation leases* of land from the 13th century onwards. Much early material in the collection was listed in J. Bavington-Jones, *Records of Dover* (1920), but on close inspection it appears that, in cases where the author lacked special knowledge, more archivally precise descriptions are needed.

Cinque Ports papers. The Cinque Port connection accounts for the existence in the collection of (for instance) medieval charters and confirmations of privileges relative to the passage over the Channel, 16th century accounts for repairs to Dover Castle, and, more recently, papers relating to the installations of Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Robert Menzies as Lords Warden. Some are listed by Bavington-Jones, but here again his descriptions require revision or expansion: he has misdated certain items and some acquired papers, e.g. those relating to the Cinque Ports'

jurisdiction over Faversham, 1350-1604, are omitted by him entirely.

Miscellaneous acquisitions and deposits: many significant items, such as the naval memoranda of James Boyton and diaries of Thomas Pattenden (a meticulous compiler of diaries and historical notes who witnesses manoeuvres in the Channel at the time of the Napoleonic wars); posters, cartoons and propaganda illustrating civil controversies arising in the 1880s and 1890s over the Dover Harbour Bills and street improvement projects; 16th century papers relating to the upkeep of the harbour before the Dover Harbour Board assumed responsibility for it; 13th to 15th century charters of endowment to the Maison Dieu Hospital.

There are, naturally, standard municipal records relating to administration, finance, freedom, etc., including about 1,500 19th-20th century files of the Town Clerk's Department on a wide variety of matters; many papers, including photographs, relating to public works such as sea defences schemes and railway and tramway projects; many logbooks of First Aid and ARP services, 1939-1945.

A Letter from Dover

One day, in the middle of the month of April, in the year 1776, a London tradesman received the following letter:

Dover, 11th April, 1776

A few days before my setting off from London I called on you to settle our account, but did not find you at home, Affairs of great concern call me for a while in the continent. I shall return to London on the beginning of next October, at which time I'll take care of discharging my little bill.

I am your humble servant,

Dr. MARAT.

This is the earliest extant letter of Jean Paul Marat, the French revolutionary leader

who organised the massacres of 1793 and was murdered in his bath, in 1793, by Charlotte Corday.

The tradesman may have been satisfied with so much politeness but the French colony in London had none too good a reputation in money matters. At this stage of his career Marat was sponging on his friends and flying from his creditors and there is no evidence that he returned to London.

What a list one could compile of notables who have passed through Dover: Chaucer, Erasmus, Henry VIII and Wolsey - to name but four, at random, who are recorded as staying at the Priory!

E L W