

"Dover in Old Picture Postcards"

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Reviewed by TERRY SUTTON

A study of nineteenth and early twentieth century picture postcards of holiday resorts often provides a snapshot of the social history of the times. A Dover journalist has made a hobby of homing in on this aspect of local history and has revealed a treasure chest of facts about our town in his latest book, *Dover in Old Picture Postcards, Volume 2*, now on sale priced £9.95.

The author is Bob Hollingsbee of Tilmanstone, who is a sub-editor on the *Dover Express* and its sister publications, *Folkestone Herald* and *Adscene*. Bob has the advantage of having at his disposal scores of old pictures of Dover, built up over the years, as well as historical facts gleaned from the columns of the *Dover Express* that go back to 1858 and he has put them to good use.

His Introduction to the hard-back 80-page book, published by European Library of The Netherlands, is an excellent review of the "development and decline, the optimism and sadness" of Dover through the last two centuries, leading up to the impact of the Channel Tunnel on the town and port. He says that Dover, through the years, has faced

change with optimism and invention and will continue to do so.

Just one of the many interesting photographs shows how advertisers once tried to take advantage of the white cliffs of Dover. This was before the days of planning restrictions. The firm of Quaker Oats thought a nice big space on the cliff face above Snargate Street would be just the site to place a large hoarding. The advertisement led to a national controversy – even with letters in *The Times*. The Society for the Prevention of Abuses of Advertising organised a petition to get the sign removed. Stung into action, Dover town council included a clause in a bill it was promoting in parliament to outlaw this and other unlicensed sites.

NATURE CONSERVATION PROJECT

The National Trust regards St. Margaret's Bay as an area of international importance due to the range and rarity of different species of plants within the chalk downland. Some plants within the area have become rare and, in order to protect them, English Nature has designated the area as a Site of Special Scientific Interest. (SSSI).

At the present time the National Trust owns 562 acres in the Dover area – part is St. Margaret's Free Down, at present grazed by sheep, and Bockell Hill, grazed by Exmoor ponies.

The current proposal is to extend the area grazed by ponies to the St. Margaret's Free Down, so that the ponies will graze the areas alternately. This will involve the erection of a stock fence to enclose the area, the removal of scrub from central areas, the erection of kissing gates at either end of the Leas to allow public access, and provision of a water supply.

The National Trust plans to implement the work in 1997 using a combination of volunteer labour led by the Warden, Mr Jimmy Green. The trust welcomes donations for the project.

EDITOR