

Ivan Green's Colour Guide to Dover

A welcome addition to the growing number of books about Dover is Ivan Green's *Colour Guide*, published at the end of 1996. Pocket-sized, priced at £2.95, it is excellent value, containing six guided tours around the Dover area, with route maps included and 102 colour plates all from Ivan's own transparencies. These are of very high quality with excellent reproduction and must be one of the best collections of photographs of Dover in one compact booklet.

Ivan Green, with his wife Margaret, began his collection of photographs and data when he arrived home to Dover from military service in 1945. He now has 45,000 colour slides and over 50,000 black and white negatives and volumes of information on every part of Kent, used extensively over the years in his talks and articles. Also the material on Kent has been used in the

last ten of the books they have produced, perhaps the best known being their "Book of the Cinque Ports."

This latest publication is a must for a Dovorian. It is worth buying just for the pictures, quite apart from the useful information on guided walks. It is also to be recommended for gifts for friends and visitors.

The Cover Picture: FROM IVAN GREEN'S COLLECTION

Ivan has kindly provided us with these explanatory notes.

This old print shows the Castle as it was before the anti-Napoleon alterations. These brutal modifications, made to convert the ancient building into an 18th century strong point housing many guns, were part of the extensive campaign to repel threatened invasions by Napoleon's French armies.

Ancient crenellations were dismantled to permit guns to be mounted on the tops of the towers, the old roof of the Keep was pulled down and the present brick ceiling installed in its place, both to safeguard the interior from stray shots and to permit the top of the Keep to be used by the defenders. Elaborate defences were added to the exterior, especially in, near and under St. John's Tower and the old North Gate. Extensive earthworks were dug around the exterior of the castle walls and great earthen banks were piled up against the stone walls. It had been proved that the ball ammunition fired from the guns of the time splintered stone, making it fly off on all directions in the form of sharpened flakes, thus providing a lethal form of stone shrapnel. Instead the earthen banks absorbed the ball ammunition, progressively destroying its velocity and bringing it harmlessly to rest, buried deep inside them.