

B.O.O.K R.E.V.I.E.W

Regal Read about Monarchs at Dover

... Reviewed by Terry Sutton ...

On sale in December, and set to go like hot cakes, is a fascinating book that details the historical links between Royalty and the Port of Dover.

Publication of the book, *Dover Harbour Royal Gateway*, sponsored by Dover Harbour Board, is the result of a year of research by the author, our chairman Derek Leach.

Since his retirement Derek, as well as taking on a host of voluntary tasks, has made a name for himself in writing and publishing a number of books on local people and places.

This latest book published by Riverdale Publications of 24 Riverdale, River and printed by Buckland Press: (£17) is surely his best, adding as it does to the accurate historical documentation of the town and port.

Dover Harbour Royal Gateway commemorates the 400th anniversary of the granting of a royal charter to Dover Harbour Board by James I in 1606. The attractively illustrated book is a unique compilation of the port's association with royalty as well as charting the history of the ever-changing development of the port from pre-Roman times to today and even looks ahead to the proposals contained in the Port of Dover's 30-year master plan.

The list of monarchs who have sailed to and from Dover begins in this book with Henry I (reigned 1100-1135) and

Stephen, who landed at Dover in 1135, and runs through to the present time with the visit to the port by Queen Elizabeth II in July 2005.

Readers will find particularly interesting the details of how the outline of the port and its harbour have changed over the generations as a result of shifts of nature and the fluctuation in the demands for cross-Channel travel.

A useful appendix lists the kings and queens of England from 1066 to the present day and the register of chairmen of Dover Harbour Board from 1606 to today's Robert Dibble.

I congratulate Dover Harbour Board on its decision to sponsor such an absorbing book on the port and the selection of a local author to compile it.

