

Entente Cordiale A joint issue of stamps to



Sir Terry Frost (1915–2003) was born in Leamington Spa. He spent part of the Second World War as a POW, having been taken prisoner in 1941. After the war he studied art in Birmingham, and then moved to Cornwall. His abstracts date from 1949. He taught art at several establishments, including Newcastle University. More than 30 one-man shows of his work were held in Britain, Europe and America.

Technical details

Printer Walsall

Process Gravure

Stamp size 30 x 41mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14 x 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Cylinders and colours

28p W1 grey ● W1 black ● W1 red ● W1 phosphor

57p W1 grey ● W1 black ● W1 beige ● W1 red ● W1 cyan (blue) ● W1 yellow ● W1 magenta ● W1 phosphor

TWO STAMPS featuring contemporary British and French paintings will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 6 April. Commemorating the centenary of the Entente Cordiale between the two countries, they feature two major works of art by prominent British and French artists. Stamps of the same designs are being issued by both Royal Mail (28p and 57p values) and La Poste (50 and 75 cent denominations). The 28p stamp features *Lace 1 (trial proof) 1968* by Sir Terry Frost (in the Tate Gallery, London) and 57p *Coccinelle* by Sonia Delaunay (in Centre Pompidou, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris). The Queen's silhouette (or RF, République Française) is printed at top left right with the value at bottom left. The caption 'Entente/Cordiale/1904-2004' is printed at top right. The stamps are the work of Rose Design. The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25; sheets of 50, with gutter margins, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 6 April, price 25p. Orders for serviced first day covers with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or London SW1 must reach Tallents House (see address below) by the day of issue. Price £1.42 UK or £1.21 overseas. A joint FDC bearing both the British and French stamps can be ordered from Tallents House, price £4.99. The British stamps will have the London SW1 postmark.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO413' (Tallents House), or 'FDO414' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark. Details of other handstamps for 6 April will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

mark the centenary of the historic agreement

Sonia Delaunay (1885-1979) was born in the Ukraine, then studied art at Karlsruhe and in Paris. In 1910 she married the French artist Robert Delaunay (1885-1941) who founded the movement known as Orphism, or Orphic Cubism. They designed costumes for Diaghilev, and in 1937 Sonia painted a mural for the Paris exhibition. Robert Delaunay's *La Joie de Vivre* featured on a French Art stamp in 1976 (SG 2110).



PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the two stamps (shown above at top, price £1.35) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack was designed by Rose Design. A coin cover will be available, price £19.95. See Late News (p223) for joint products.

Illustrations in the pack (top) include Monsieur Cambon of France and Lord Lansdowne, the signatories to the Entente Cordiale, Channel crossing 'firsts', and Concordia.

This page the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994, the occasion for the first British/French joint issue; George VI and French President Lebrun on an unissued Anglo-French stamp, 1940 (the story of this design can be found in Tony Gammons' *Bulletin* articles in December 1987 and January 1988); one of the set issued for the first flight of the Anglo-French Concorde, 1969.

Opposite page French stamp for state visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 1938; and British and French issues in use in 1904.

At the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush in London, King Edward VII declared the new agreement 'necessary for the wealth and prosperity of our two nations and for the maintenance of the peace which makes for the happiness of the whole world.'



Entente Cordiale The term 'Entente Cordiale' was used a century ago because the language of diplomacy was still partly French; the phrase had already been used of relations between Britain and the USA. At first the Anglo-French accord was merely a convention, with two declarations signed in London on 8 April 1904, but it paved the way for the end of colonial rivalry and their alliance in two world wars.

The trigger was a clash between Britain and France known as the Fashoda Incident. In July 1898, French troops from West Africa, led by Marchand, entered Fashoda, a fort in Egyptian Sudan, hoping to spread French influence. In September, Sir Herbert (later Lord) Kitchener reached Fashoda from the north, intent on extending British influence south. To avert hostilities, Marchand and Kitchener agreed to fly the French, British and Egyptian flags together. Eventually France withdrew, but there were bad feelings on both sides. The French Foreign Minister, Théophile Delcasse, proposed co-existence between the French and British Empires, and the ensuing Entente Cordiale resolved border disputes, giving France a free hand in Morocco and Britain in Egypt.

Socially and culturally, France and Britain had long been close. In 1903 King Edward VII paid a triumphal state visit to Paris, shortly followed by an equally successful visit to London by President Émile Loubet. A Franco-British Exhibition was held in London in 1908, where Edward VII declared the hope that the entente would be permanent.

The Entente survived two world wars. General de Gaulle was the guest of Britain during the Second World War and in 1940, prompted by Jean Monnet, Britain proposed political union with France although too late to avert Pétain's collaborationist government.

In 1994 The Queen and President Mitterand opened the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. Four years later, with President Chirac, Her Majesty marked the 80th anniversary of the Armistice by laying wreaths at the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Arc de Triomphe. Last year President Chirac visited London and The Queen will visit France this year.

A statue of de Gaulle was unveiled in London in 1993, followed in 1998 by a statue of Churchill in Paris. One of the most famous Franco-British collaborations was Concorde, the result of a deal signed in 1962 to develop a dual-nationality passenger plane. It flew for the last time in 2003 ●