

Apopka Man Needs a Hunting Dog

by A. Stephen Patrick

At all stamp shows I ask dealers to see their Florida covers for sale always hoping to find something new and interesting -- hopefully for not a lot of money. This cover qualifies in that it was priced at only \$3. The two color advertisement was sent November 7, 1934, to Dixie Hounds Kennels in Illinois. It is serviced with a three cent Washington stamp that served as a workhorse in the 1930's until the three cent Jefferson "prexie" came out in 1938.



My mailing address has been Apopka, FL, since 1973, so I am attracted to local postal history. A Mr. Hayes has responded to an ad for No. 1 Coon and Combination hunters. He fills out the form asking for a three year

old female, black and tan, fox hound crossed with a beagle so he can hunt rabbits. He "likes one that barks quite a bit." He goes on to describe the hunting territory as "hills, swamps, and scrubs" that exactly describes the landscape around Apopka Florida in northwest Orange County.

DIXIE HOUND KENNELS, INC.
F. M. SARVER, Manager.
Herrick, Illinois

GUARANTEE ORDER BLANK

(Please Write Name and Address Plainly) \$5.00 Cash Must Accompany All Dog Orders

Name Curtis J. Hayes Amount Enclosed, \$ 5.00
 Street or Box Gen. Del. Amount C. O. D., \$ 7.00
 Address Apopka Fla. Would you accept **QUALITY** regardless of size, sex, or
Apopka Fla. color? Yes.
 Express Office _____ LIST OF DOG WANTED: Fox hound crossed with beagle
 Age of Dog Wanted Three (3) Color Black & Tan State Second Choice in Color Blue tick Sex Female
 State Game you Want Dog to Hunt Rabbits Do You Want a Cold Trailer or a Dripper _____
 That Does Not Bark Much? Likes one that barks quite a bit. Describe Your Hunting Territory:
Hills Swamps & Scrubs.
I sure prefer Fox hound - Crossed with Beagle.
If you haven't Female send Male, age 3 yrs. not over 4.

FOR ORDERING MEDICINE, ETC., SEE OPPOSITE SIDE

NO. 1 COON AND COMBINATION HUNTERS

LIST B—These are No. 1 Coon, Mink, Opossum and Skunk Hounds. Wide rangers, and all night hunters; will hunt, trail, tree and stay treed on Coon, Mink, Opossum and Skunk. Ages from 3 to 5 years. Good on Coon, also good water dogs. Will tree up tree, in hole, or on ground. Fox, stock and rabbit broke. Either sex, size or color.

Long eared, open trailers. Price, each _____ \$ 70.00
 Short eared, silent trailers, tree barkers. Price, each _____ \$ 65.00

Handwritten notes: 2200, 2100

Hayes sends \$5.00 with the order and agrees to cash on delivery (C. O. D.). This letter is a great testament to the power of mail service and railroad express 80 years ago. Would email, a credit card, and Amazon give the same service as well today?

A STICKY QUESTION

by John Latter

At least one Auction Catalogue I receive will often add the words “**NH - therefore must be worth at least double the catalogue value**”. On the other hand, some catalogues actually differentiate between ‘hinged’ and ‘never hinged’ with according price premiums. We all know that Scott finds an arbitrary point in the 1940’s to state “**Prices for all unused issues after this date are for never hinged examples**” or words to that effect. Many collectors pout at this and tell anyone who’ll listen “*I’m not a gum collector!*” However those very same collectors will typically select a never hinged stamp when it is available and it is the same price as a hinged example!

It is a sticky question!

Where I have difficulty is why an NH one pound stamp issued in 1945 is considered to possess a times two premium -- when the same value stamp issued in 1946 does not. Or why an NH stamp issued in 1875 should have just the same x2 premium as an NH stamp issued two decades later. I realize that the two aforementioned stamps may have different catalogue values but should the NH premium be the same?

And another thing!

Very often when one finds a long set, it may be that all are NH apart from the two top values that have been previously hinged – this I can understand – probably plain economics or it is so difficult to find the top values NH. However what is as frustrating is finding that same long set with the lower three denominations hinged when the rest are not. When a collector starts out, lack of funds or lack of knowledge may encourage him (or her) to use hinges on the low values that he obtains. With subsequent knowledge of hingeless mounts, all subsequent purchases are safely encased in Showgard mounts – maybe even those few early values are remounted to give the page symmetry.

Now back to the “sticky question”.

I’d like to know your opinion on this subject.

As you know, I am interested in the stamps of Great Britain and the entire British Family of Nations. So I will use these as the basis of my thoughts. I propose:

Queen Victoria Issues up to 1890	NH Premium = 3.0
Queen Victoria issues after 1890	NH Premium = 2.5
King Edward VII issues	NH Premium = 2.2
King George V issues up to 1932	NH Premium = 1.85
King George V issues after 1932 + King Edward VIII issues	NH Premium = 1.33
King George VI issues	NH Premium = 1.25

This may seem a bit complicated, and maybe it is. On the other hand it may be too simplistic. Maybe high values – say 5 shilling values and up should deserve a little more premium; maybe some lower values may need a little more as well.

Certainly some countries’ issues are easier to find NH than others. We all know how stamps from warmer climes tend to be plagued with toned gum. This often caused the collector/owner to float the gum off before it suffused into the paper and affected the appearance of the stamp face.

So what do you think? Should we have a standard at all or should we leave all well alone? Please let me have your comments and/or suggestions.

This could be the start of quite a discussion!!