

THE  
MIKE FARRELL  
COLLECTION  
OF INDEPENDENT MAILS

INCLUDING THE HISTORY, FORGERIES, & FANTASIES OF  
UNITED STATES, LOCAL POSTS, CARRIERS,  
INDEPENDENT MAIL ROUTES, & EXPRESS CO.s

FANTASY LOCAL POSTS OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES

The information and identification within these selections is the individual work of the Farrell Collection. It is always recommended to consult multiple sources for additional information or opinions. Local post company descriptions are based on information available at the time of writing.

Descriptions in the Farrell Collection were written based on personal research and sources including, but not limited to: Articles in the Carriers and Locals Society's The Penny Post; Amos Media's Scott Catalogue; Patton's The Private Local Post of the United States; Springer's Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps; Lyons' Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States; articles in the USPS's The Chronicle; Mosher's Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps; The Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group's Eastern Independent Mail Companies and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845; Elliot Perry's Pat Paragraphs; James N. Drummond's Catalog of Philatelic Miscellany; and the notes of George Sloane and Gordon Stimmell.

Colors listed for stamps and forgeries are the opinions of the Farrell Collection based on viewing physical copies of the pieces under consistent lighting. Colors in the .pdfs may be slightly inaccurate due to manipulations from the scanning process, computer monitor settings, or (in event that the files are printed for offline viewing) the printing process.

In this section, stamps and labels are identified by their Mosher Catalog numbers.



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

One of the first actions taken by the United States during the American Civil War was setting up a blockade to prevent the Confederacy from accessing trade with other countries. President Lincoln proclaimed the blockade on April 16, 1861. By July of the same year, Union blockades had been established at all major ports of the southern states, from Virginia to Texas.

In addition to preventing financial and arms support through trade, the blockades also hindered the Confederacy's access to communication. Letters to Europe needed to sneak past the blockade in small, fast ships. Blockade runner mail was often sent prepaid with Confederate stamps, or stampless with steamship postmarks.

One route to get mail around the blockade was to send it first to Mexico, where it could connect with foreign mail ships. This was the route used by Antonio Costa, who started a mail service in conjunction with the New Orleans Post Office. "Costa's Foreign Mail" advertised twice monthly deliveries of letters to and from Mexico, the West Indies, and Europe. This service was probably the inspiration for the fantasy Confederate "Blockade Post[a]ge" stamps.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR ANTONIO COSTA'S FOREIGN MAIL  
CHARLESTON COURIER, OCTOBER 22, 1861

The original forger of these stamps is unknown. These fakes were designed in two styles: stamps to the West Indies valued at 25¢, 50¢ and \$1; and stamps to Europe valued at \$1. While the \$1 rate to Europe matches Costa's advertisement, the rates to the West Indies do not match any of the other rates listed by Costa. Since their first design, the stamps have been printed in different types by several different forgers.

The Blockade Postage stamps were known reported as early as 1864 in European stamp catalogues. In Jean-Baptiste Moens' *Le Timbre-Poste* (Brussels) and in Oscar François George Berger-Levrault's *Les Timbres-Poste* (Paris), the stamps are described as reading "Blockade Postge" (without "a" in postage). However, in stamp forger Ferdinand Elb's *Katalog nebst Preisliste mit Beschreibung* (Dresden) the stamps are described as reading "Blockade Postage" (with "a" in postage).

## FOREIGN MAIL FROM NEW ORLEANS, VIA TAMPICO,

Connecting with the British Mail Steamers.

THE UNDERSIGNED, NOW SUFFERING IN COMMON with others the inconveniences of blockade and non-intercourse with foreign countries, has, by the advice and approval of J. L. RIDDELL, Postmaster at New Orleans, taken all needful measures to establish at his own expense, a MONTHLY MAIL between New Orleans and the Mexican Port of Tampico, to connect with the regular British Mail Steamers touching at that port. AUGUSTE DE MESGRIGNEY, and P. M. MAZARD, highly recommended by New Orleans merchants, have been appointed, and duly qualified as mail carriers by our Postmaster, for this service. The first mail consisting of 1233 letters left this City on the 10th instant, in charge of Mr. MESGRIGNEY. The second mail will close on the 9th November, proximo, at 3 o'clock, P. M., and will leave New Orleans the next morning. The third mail will leave New Orleans on the 10th of December; and subsequently, as soon as proper arrangements can be made, the regular times of departure will be on the 10th and 25th of each month, making a semi-monthly mail.

### TARIFF ON CHARGES ON OUTGOING LETTERS (INCLUDING CONFEDERATE POSTAGE)

Single Letters, half an ounce or less (double and multiple rates in proportion)—To Mexico.....	\$0.50
Single Letters, half an ounce or less (double and multiple rates in proportion)—To Island of Cuba.....	0.75
Single Letters, half an ounce or less (double and multiple rates in proportion)—To other West Indies.....	0.55
Single Letters, half an ounce or less (double and multiple rates in proportion)—To Europe.....	1.00

Letters from abroad can be received through the same route. The Foreign Postage on such Letters must be prepaid to Tampico, and they must be endorsed "By the West India Mail, via Tampico, care of Postmaster at Metamoras."

ANTONIO COSTA,

16 Custom House-street.

New Orleans, October 15, 1861.

### POSTOFFICE NOTICE.

The foregoing project for a FOREIGN MAIL is fully entitled to public confidence. ANTONIO COSTA, Esq., is a New Orleans merchant of responsibility and character. He has been a resident of New Orleans for the last thirty years.

Letters intended for this Mail may be enclosed along with the money required as per tariff above, and the outer envelope addressed, "COSTA'S Foreign Mail, care of Postmaster, New Orleans."

—The Confederate Postage to this office must be prepaid.

J. L. RIDDELL, Postmaster.

New Orleans, October 15, 1861.

October 22



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

H.F. Rooke published his findings on Confederate bogus stamps in 1969. Since then, his typing system for the stamps has been considered the standard. The Blockade Postage stamps in this collection are classified with his typing, with additional notes added as needed for further identification.

## TYPE 1

The type 1 stamps are believed to be the first produced, probably originating in Europe. They read "Blockade Postge" (no "a" in postage). These are the only version of the stamps that include the West Indies values. On the Europe value, five vertical lines are printed before the word "Europe". The checkerboard border around the design comes in two styles: with the top right box filled (a) or clear (b).

The stamps were printed by typography on bond paper and are known imperforate, pin perforated (gauge 20), and rouletted (gauge 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ ). All of the type 1 stamps were cancelled - none are known uncanceled. Cancellations include CHARLESTON, GALVESTON, SAVANNAH, and WILMINGTON surrounded by rectangles; and MOBILE surrounded by a circle. The text on these cancels are all printed in a serif font.



TOP RIGHT BOX FILLED : STYLE (A)



TOP RIGHT BOX CLEAR : STYLE (B)



TYPE 1 A (A)  
W. INDIES  
25¢ BROWN  
ROULETTE 12 $\frac{3}{4}$   
CHARLESTON



TYPE 1 A (A)  
W. INDIES  
25¢ BROWN  
ROULETTE 12 $\frac{3}{4}$   
GALVESTON



TYPE 1 A (A)  
W. INDIES  
25¢ BROWN  
ROULETTE 12 $\frac{3}{4}$   
WILMINGTON

# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## TYPE 1



TYPE 1 A (B)  
W. INDIES  
25¢ BROWN  
ROULETTE 12½  
MOBILE



TYPE 1 A (B)  
W. INDIES  
25¢ BROWN  
ROULETTE 12½  
ST. MARKS

The stamp above (right) features a rectangular cancel in the style of those known on the type 1 stamps that reads "MARKS". This cancel is currently unrecorded; it does not match with any of the known cancels, which list the most popular Confederate ports. The "MARKS" cancel is probably intended to represent the Florida port of St. Marks.



TYPE 1 A (B)  
W. INDIES  
25¢ BROWN  
PIN PERF (20)  
CHARLESTON



TYPE 1 A (B)  
W. INDIES  
25¢ BROWN  
PIN PERF (20)  
GALVESTON



TYPE 1 A (B)  
W. INDIES  
25¢ BROWN  
PIN PERF (20)  
MOBILE



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## TYPE 1



TYPE 1 Ba (A)  
W. INDIES  
50c GREEN  
ON WHITE  
PIN PERF (20)  
GALVESTON



TYPE 1 Ba (A)  
W. INDIES  
50c GREEN  
ON WHITE  
PIN PERF (20)  
MOBILE



TYPE 1 Ba (B)  
W. INDIES  
50c GREEN  
ON WHITE  
PIN PERF (20)  
SAVANNAH



TYPE 1 Ba (B)  
W. INDIES  
50c GREEN  
ON WHITE  
PIN PERF (20)  
WILMINGTON



TYPE 1 Ba (B)  
W. INDIES  
50c BLACK  
ON VERMILION SC  
IMPERFORATE  
CHARLESTON



TYPE 1 Ba (B)  
W. INDIES  
50c GREEN  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE  
GALVESTON



TYPE 1 Ba (B)  
W. INDIES  
50c GREEN  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE  
WILMINGTON

The type 1, 50c West Indies stamps came in two different styles. Rooke style a includes a dotted line under "W. Indies", but not above "Blockade". Style b includes a dotted line above "Blockade", but not below "W. Indies".



TYPE 1 Bb (A)  
W. INDIES  
50c YELLOW GREEN  
ON WHITE  
PIN PERF (20)  
CHARLESTON



TYPE 1 Bb (A)  
W. INDIES  
50c YELLOW GREEN  
ON WHITE  
PIN PERF (20)  
MOBILE



TYPE 1 Bb (A)  
W. INDIES  
50c YELLOW GREEN  
ON WHITE  
PIN PERF (20)  
WILMINGTON



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## TYPE 1



TYPE 1 D (B)  
W. INDIES  
\$1 MAUVE  
PIN PERF (20)  
CHARLESTON



TYPE 1 D (B)  
W. INDIES  
\$1 RED  
PIN PERF (20)  
GALVESTON



TYPE 1 D (B)  
W. INDIES  
\$1 RED  
IMPERFORATE  
MOBILE

Type 1 Blockade Postage "Europe" stamps have five vertical lines printed before the word "Europe".



TYPE 1 C (B)  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
ROULETTE 12%  
GALVESTON



TYPE 1 C (B)  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
ROULETTE 12%  
MOBILE



TYPE 1 C (B)  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
ROULETTE 12%  
WILMINGTON



TYPE 1 C (B)  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
PIN PERF (20)  
MOBILE



TYPE 1 C (B)  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
PIN PERF (20)  
SAVANNAH



TYPE 1 C (B)  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
PIN PERF (20)  
WILMINGTON



TYPE 1 C (B)  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
IMPERFORATE  
CHARLESTON



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## MOENS ILLUSTRATION

The illustration published in Moens' *Le Timbre-Poste* was not given a type by Rooke, because it was not mass produced as a bogus. This illustration has characteristics that are different from all other types. This illustration includes the five vertical lines in front of "Europe", but no period after "Postage".

This illustration also includes perforations drawn around the design.

The illustration was included in Moens' 1883 edition of the catalogue, but it was noted within the text that he could not verify that the stamp was genuine.



MOENS' ILLUSTRATION  
ALBUM CUT

## TYPE 2

The second type of bogus Blockade Postage stamps was probably based on the illustration published by Moens. Like the Moens illustration, the type 2 bogus stamps were only made in the \$1 Europe style, and are all known with a clear box in the upper right of the checkerboard design (b). These stamps were rouletted or pin perforated in the style of the type 1 boguses, and are sometimes known with a circled "Mobile" cancellation. In these cancels, "Mobile" is printed without serifs.

A key identifying characteristic of the type 2 bogus are the **six** vertical lines in front of "Europe".



TYPE 2  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
ON WHITE  
ROULETTE 10½



TYPE 2  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
ON WHITE  
PIN PERF (20)  
MOBILE



TYPE 2  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLACK  
ON VERMILION SC  
PIN PERF (20)



TYPE 2  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLACK  
ON VERMILION SC  
PIN PERF (20)  
MOBILE



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## TYPE 2

The type 2 bogus stamps below are modern fakes. Although they have the same printed characteristics of the original type 2 stamps, these are printed in a wide variety of colors on a variety of different papers. These modern fakes are imperforate and uncanceled.



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLACK  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 ROSE BROWN  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED BROWN  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 ROSE  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



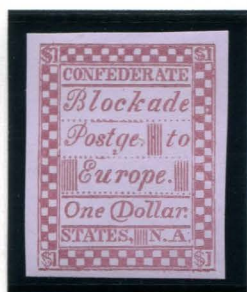
TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 GRAY  
ON PINK  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED  
ON LIGHT YELLOW  
IMPERFORATE



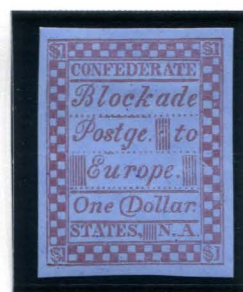
TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 ROSE BROWN  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 ROSE  
ON LAVENDER PINK  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 ROSE  
ON VIOLET  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 2 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 ROSE  
ON BLUE VIOLET  
IMPERFORATE



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## TYPE 3

The Blockade Postage bogus stamps that were created and printed by S. Allan Taylor are known as type 3. The bogus stamps are the only type that correctly spell "Postage" (with the "a" included), and have only **four** vertical lines before "Europe". Taylor created his stamps by using the same checkerboard border he used to make his "Walton & Co. City Express Post" bogus stamps. Because the border was used for multiple stamps, instead of \$1 values, the corner boxes include generic decorative ornaments.

Type 3 blockade postage stamps were only made in the \$1 Europe style. Like many of Taylor's forgeries, these were made in many different combinations of ink and paper colors. They were produced imperforate and were never cancelled by Taylor. It is possible that some of the fakes were cancelled later by other dealers trying to pass the stamps as real.

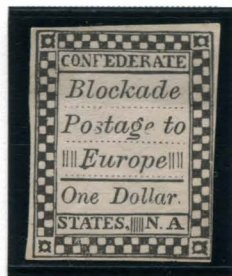


PHOTOCOPIES OF TAYLOR FANTASIES  
BLOCKADE POSTAGE TYPE 3  
WALTON & CO. (BOGUS 1)

ARTICLE FROM S. ALLAN TAYLOR'S JOURNAL  
THE STAMP COLLECTOR'S RECORD, NO. 2  
JANUARY 15, 1865

### NEW STAMPS.

A Blockade Stamp of the "Southern Confederacy," that vain, hollow and tottering fabric, which is now in its last agonies, is the latest novelty on this side. A large rectangle with chequered border, inscribed, "Blockade Postage, to Europe, One Dollar," which we must give the aforesaid confederacy the justice to say, is dirt cheap. What! four cents, United States money, for conveying half an ounce of the burning ebullitions of the Southern Chivalry, to their cold-hearted friends in Europe, with all the risks and dangers attendant on an excursion through a fleet of Yankee Cruisers! why its cheap, that's what it is, d—deuced cheap!



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLACK  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE

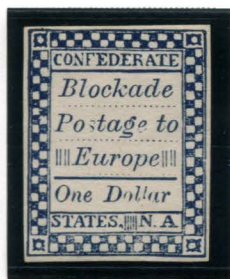


TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 GRAY  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE

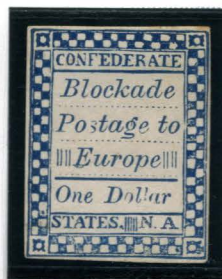


# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

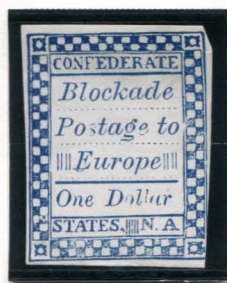
## TYPE 3



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 DARK NAVY  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 NAVY  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



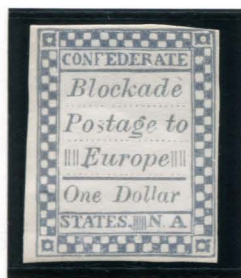
TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 DARK BLUE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



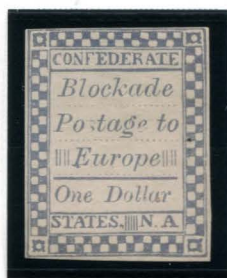
TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BRIGHT BLUE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE GRAY  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE GRAY  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 LIGHT BLUE  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE

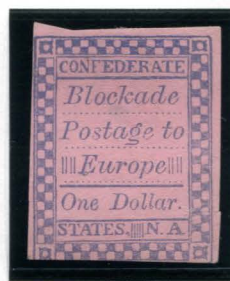


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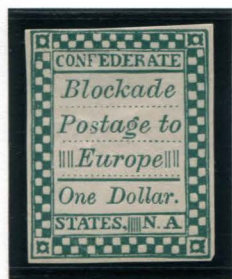
## TYPE 3



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON PINK (SHADE)  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON PINK (SHADE)  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE GREEN (SHADE)  
ON CREAMY WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



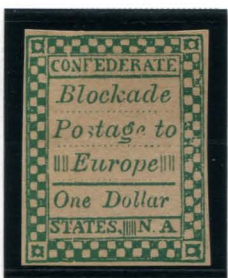
TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE GREEN (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 GREEN (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 GREEN (SHADE)  
ON YELLOWISH WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 GREEN (SHADE)  
ON BUFF  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 GREEN (SHADE)  
ON PALE BLUE GREEN  
IMPERFORATE



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## TYPE 3



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 ORANGE  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BROWN  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 BROWN  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED VIOLET (SHADE)  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED VIOLET (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED VIOLET (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED VIOLET (SHADE)  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PINK (SHADE)  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PINK (SHADE)  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## TYPE 3



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED  
ON BUFF  
IMPERFORATE



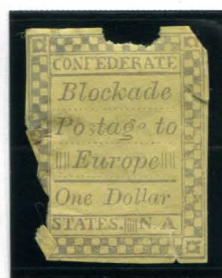
TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED  
ON BLUE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED  
ON BLUE GREEN  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 RED  
ON GREEN  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 GRAY VIOLET  
ON YELLOW  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON CREAMY WHITE  
IMPERFORATE

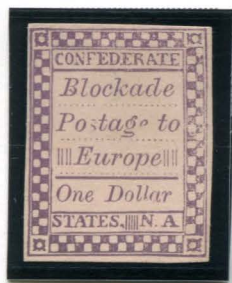


TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

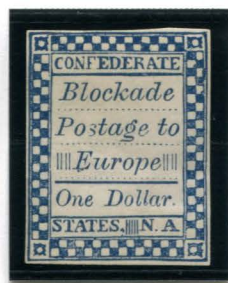
## TYPE 3



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON PINKISH CREAM  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 PURPLE (SHADE)  
ON PINKISH  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 DARK BLUE (SHADE)  
ON CREAMY H. LAID  
IMPERFORATE



TYPE 3  
EUROPE  
\$1 DARK BLUE (SHADE)  
ON WHITE H. LAID  
IMPERFORATE

## MODERN FAKES

These modern forgeries were produced around 1947. They are based on the type 3 Taylor fakes. Stamp dealer Jack Molesworth sold these fakes, calling them modern "essays". It is possible that Molesworth also made the stamps, possibly as favors to other collectors.



TYPE 3 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 BROWN  
ON WHITE



TYPE 3 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 BLUE  
ON WHITE  
GUMMED



TYPE 3 - MODERN  
EUROPE  
\$1 BROWN  
ON WHITE

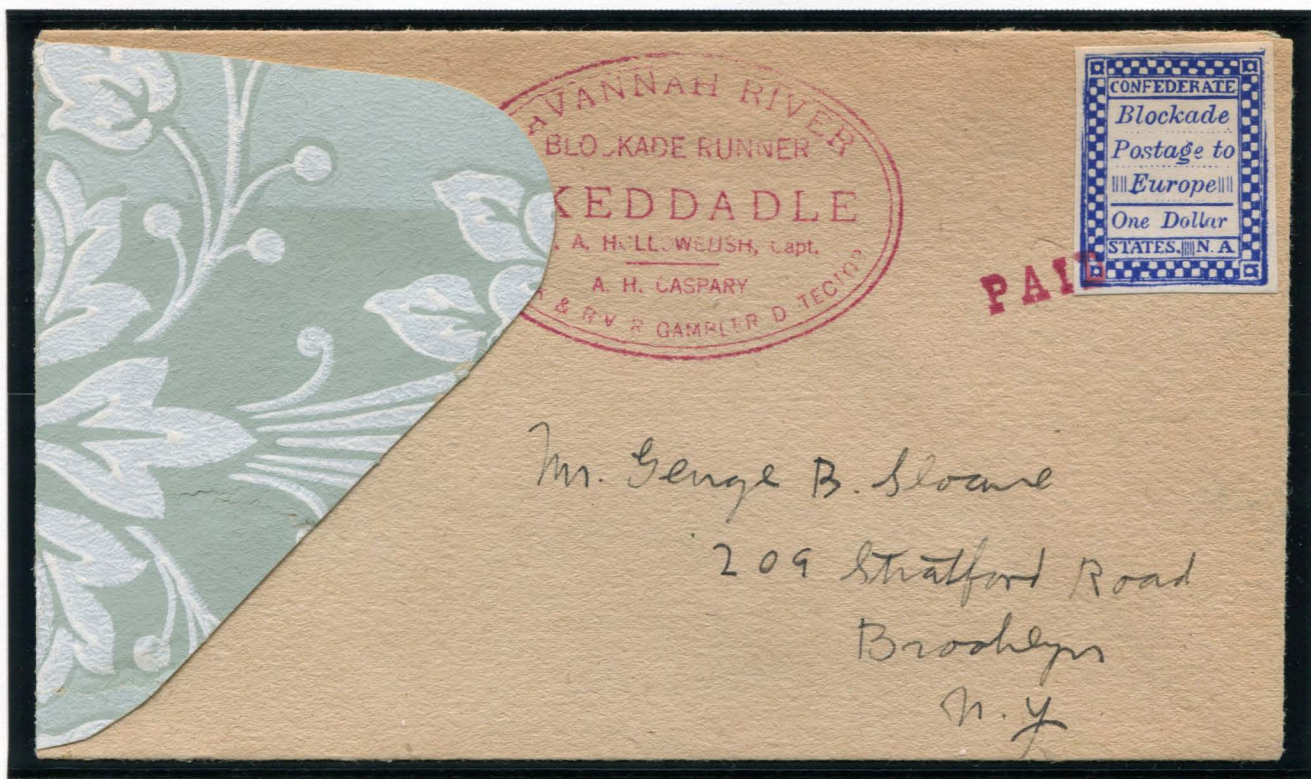


# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## MODERN COVER FORGERY

The cover featured here was created as a favor for stamp dealer George Sloane. The envelope is made with wallpaper to imitate an adversity cover from the Civil War, and a modern type 3 forgery is affixed to the corner.

The cover is also cancelled by a large "Savannah River / Blockade Runner / Skeddadle" handstamp." This handstamp includes the names "F.A. Hollowbush" and "A.H. Caspary" - well know stamp collectors.



TYPE 3 - MODERN  
EUROPE - \$1 BLUE ON WHITE (GUMMED)  
ON FACSIMILE ADVERSITY COVER  
WITH BOGUS "SAVANNAH RIVER / SKEDDADLE" HANDSTAMP

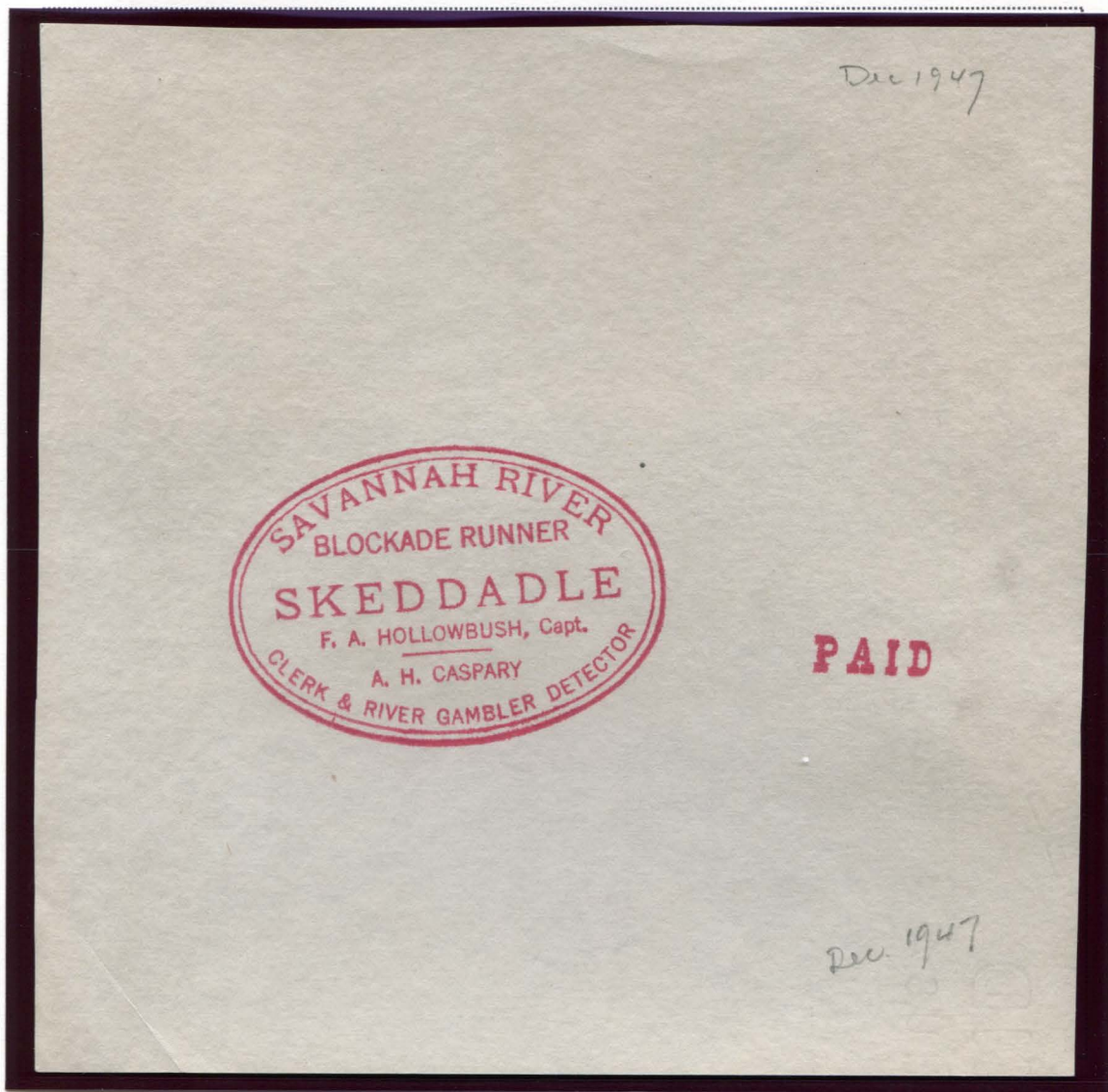
The cover is dated "December 1947" in pencil on the reverse.



# BLOCKADE POSTAGE

## MODERN FORGERY - HANDSTAMP

Featured here is a "proof" of the bogus handstamp used on the cover on the previous page. The handstamp is printed in red and includes a "PAID" cancellation at the right. It is printed on water-marked paper and dated "Dec. 1947" in manuscript.



BOGUS "SAVANNAH RIVER / SKEDDADLE" HANDSTAMP