Blue & Gray: Mail and the Civil War
Nov. 2 – 4 2012
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Movie Overview

- Cold Mountain (2003)

- Movie Trailer:

  http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXGtunj9Jqk
APS – You Tube Video on Cold Mountain Movie Props

- youtube.com:
  - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jBb6kMZgWvY
Confederate movie prop cover on eBay

By Rick Miller

An interesting bit of Confederate faux postal history was offered on eBay in March, but did not sell.

The cover, shown nearby, was a prop used in the Civil War film Cold Mountain (2003), starring Jude Law and Nicole Kidman.

The cover is franked with nine Confederate States 5¢ blue Jefferson Davis stamp facsimiles, probably intended to represent Scott 7.

The stamps are tied to the cover by a strike of a Pensacola, Fla., circular datestamp and three strikes of a cancel that resembles the handstamped Pensacola Confederate postmaster’s provisional “Paid 5¢” and “H” inside a five-point star stamp (Scott 166XU1).

There is no year date in the datestamp and the month is illegible, but the day is “25.” There is a boxed “Forwarded” handstamp at the lower left of the cover.

The cover is addressed in 19th-century style calligraphic handwriting to “Mr. W.P. Inman, Highland Guards, North Carolina.” The empty cover does not contain the prop letter.

Cold Mountain is about a Confederate soldier played by Jude Law, who deserts from the army to make his way home to Cold Mountain, N.C., and his waiting love Ada Monroe (played by Nicole Kidman). He survives a series of harrowing escapes only to be killed by a Confederate renegade after spending a single night at home with Monroe during which she conceives a child.

In the film, the prop cover represents a letter sent from Monroe to Inman while he was away fighting the war.

The cover was offered by a seller named “premier-props” with the guarantee that 100 percent of the sale proceeds will go to the charitable Entertainment Industry Foundation.

The cover was described on eBay as “a studio-distressed, stained tan envelope, with nine 5-cent stamps on the outside.”

The cover received eight bids, but the top bid of $177.50 at the close of the auction on March 20 did not meet the reserve.
Prop Cover – Mystery

Prop “Hero” Cover

Film Clip of Prop “Hero” Cover
## Prop Cover Address Mystery

| Mr. W. P. Inman  
Highland Guards  
North Carolina | Mr. W. P. Inman  
Company I 25th  
N.C.  
Ransom’s Brigade  
C.S.A. | Mr. W. P. Inman  
Company I 25th  
N.C.  
Ransom’s Brigade  
C.S.A. |
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<tr>
<td>“Hero” Envelope</td>
<td>Film Clip Envelope</td>
<td>“Training” envelope</td>
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- Thomas J. Richards
  "Cold Mountain": Philatelic Props Developed for the Movie
  Postal History Symposium, Nov. 2012
Prop “Hero” Cover Details

- Stamps look real – but over-franked.
- Pensacola, FL. makes no sense.
- She was either in Charleston or Cold Mountain.
- The Pensacola and PAID 5 cancels are very realistic.

Prop masters did some research.

Prop Cover

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A hodgepodge of items

- Mixture of stamps
- Lynchburg, VA. cancel
- Charleston, MD.(?) cancel
- Forwarded marking

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Cancels and Devices

Actual Cancelling Devices

Cancels

Thomas J. Richards
"Cold Mountain": Philatelic Props Developed for the Movie
Postal History Symposium, Nov. 2012
Summary

- Critics compared movie to Homer’s “Odyssey”

- Fun to track these items down.

- Cross-over collecting from philatelic world to movie world.

- Prop masters did a fair job – even on things that were only on the screen for a few seconds.

- Movie was enjoyable – hunting for props more enjoyable.
Questions ??