

Postal History Symposium  
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**Civil War Movie – “Cold Mountain”**  
**Philatelic Movie Props Developed for the Movie**

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Abstract

The opening scene of this 2003 Civil War period movie shows Confederate soldier W. P. Inman (Jude Law), in 1864, sitting in the trenches at Petersburg, Virginia reading a (prop) letter/envelope from Ada Monroe (Nicole Kidman), his love interest in Cold Mountain, North Carolina. Little did Inman know that the Union Army was ready to explode gunpowder under the Confederate position. The scene ends with the prop letter/envelope burning from the explosion. The rest of the movie revolves around his attempt to get back to Cold Mountain so he can be with Ada.

Inman was a real person as shown by his National Archives card. His full name was William Pickney Inman but the full name is never used in the movie. He actually deserted two times from the Confederate army but was pardoned. His relatives still live in the Cold Mountain area and he is buried in the local cemetery.

The show was nominated for seven (7) Academy Awards – winning one for best supporting actress (Rene Zellweger).

The paper will cover the various philatelic props created for the movie. They range from stamps, envelopes, letters, and cancelling devices. It will show how much detail the movie companies prop departments will go to add authenticity to the movie. While the prop mail is a key part of the movie it is only seen on the screen for a short period of time. Yet a lot of research (sometimes faulty) and effort goes into its creation.