



The original painting by Artist Don Troiani is on the left. The picture on the right shows the costume for the movie, "The Patriot." The lawsuit filed in Philadelphia states Sony Pictures Entertainment and others stole the painter's design.

Phila. Lawyers Sue "The Patriot" On Behalf Of Artist/Historian

A Philadelphia law firm has been hired by an artist and historian to sue the producers of "The Patriot," movie starring Mel Gibson, currently being shown in area movie theaters.

The law firm is Bochetto & Lentz, 1530 Locust Street, Philadelphia (215-735-3900).

Suit has been brought in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

Gavin P. Lentz is representing the plaintiff, Don Troiani.

Troiani says he was offered a position to design costumes for the movies, especially those depicting "Minute Men."

Troiani wanted his name to appear in the credits.

While the producers did let him

know they would give him the designing job, they would not agree to his name being in the credits.

The deal was off.

But, Troiani claims the producers went ahead, and did use a design from one of his paintings (see photo on page 1 of this month's issue of ACT).

The movie people paid him zero, nothing.

According to the suit, Troiani is a "nationally known military artist and historian."

His paintings, featuring military uniforms, can be seen at the Smithsonian Institute, National

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Park Service, West Point and the Pentagon.

The "Minute Men" painting does have a copyright, which was registered in April 2000, according to the suit.

It also has a previous copyright from 1998 when it appeared in his book, "Don Troiani's Soldiers in America, 1754-1856."

An interesting factor is that colonial minutemen never received government-authorized uniforms.

Allegedly the minutemen in Massachusetts wore civilian clothing as depicted in Troiani's painting.

That painting was copied in

every detail according to Troiani.

The costumes were an important "focal point of the movie," according to "The Patriots" own internet website.

The website said, "The costumes were vitally important to this historical problem."

Mel Gibson allegedly was paid more than \$20 million for the movie.

Artist Troiani, his lawyers say, "was paid nothing."

The attorneys are asking for a court order that will give Troiani "immediate screen credit on all movies, videos, other copies, or future releases."

They are also asking for money that could be \$100,000 and more.