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by José Ángel García Landa

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# James Fenimore Cooper (1789-1851)

(US novelist, b. Burlington, NJ, son of William Cooper, founder of Cooperstown; dismissed from Yale; seaman for several years, married, gentleman farmer, successful novelist, moved to New York City, US consul at Lyons, travelled in Europe 1826-33, defender of republicanism in Europe and conservative aristocratic Federalist back in USA; moved back to Cooperstown, father of Susan Fenimore Cooper)

**Works**

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\_\_\_\_\_. *The Wept of Wish-ton-Wish.*Romance. 1829. (UK title: *The Borderers* in 1829, *the Heathcotes* in 1854). (King Philip's War, 1670s).

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Water-Witch.* Romance. 1830.

\_\_\_\_\_. *A Letter to General Lafayette.* 1831.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Bravo.* Historical romance. 1831.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Heidenmauer, or, The Benedictines.* Historical romance. 1832.

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\_\_\_\_\_. *A Letter to His Countrymen.* 1834.

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**Criticism**

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Films

*The Last of the Mohicans.* Dir. Clarence Brown and Maurice Tourneur. Script by Robert Dillon, based on James Fenimore Cooper's novel. Cast: Barbara Bedford, Lilian Hall, Wallace Beery, Albert Roscoe. 1920. Online at YouTube.

<http://www.youtube.com/movie?v=AjXIdbVcQPE&feature=mv_sr>

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*The Last of the Mohicans.* Dir. Michael Mann. Screenplay by Mann and Christopher Crowe, from Philip Dunne's script for George B. Seitz's film, inspired by Fenimore Cooper's novel. Cast: Daniel Day-Lewis, Madeleine Stowe, Russell Means, Eric Schweig, Jodhi May, Steven Waddington, Wes Studi, Maurice Roëves, Patrice Chereau, Colm Meaney, Peter Postlethwaite. Music by Randy Edelman. Panavision. USA, 1992.\* (Oscar for best sound).

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Prizes

James Fenimore Cooper Prize for historical fiction in the United States.

Related works

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*The Wept of Wish-ton-Wish.* Anonymous drama based on Cooper's novel. Prod. 1834, pub. 1856.

Smith, R. P. *The Water Witch.* Drama based on J. F. Cooper's novel. C. 1830.

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