

# The International Institute of Agriculture

## Rome, Italy - 1905-1948

### Exhibit Scope

This exhibit presents official mail and cancellation devices of the International Institute of Agriculture.

### Historical Background

The International Institute of Agriculture (IIA) was founded by David Lubin of Sacramento, California in Rome in 1905 with the financial support of King Victor Emmanuel III. Delegates from 40 countries attended the first Agriculture Institute Congress in 1906 in Rome and a treaty establishing the institute was finalized.

### Exhibit Development

Exhibit development progresses chronologically and includes examples of service mail using the various cancellation devices to illustrate the evolution of changes at the IIA postal facilities.

### Exhibit Plan

- 1 Introduction and David Lubin
- 2 Institute Devices
  - a) Barred Circle
  - b) Plain Circle
  - c) Arced Circle - Type A, Type B and Type C
- 3 IIA Transition to FAO



**Earliest recorded  
example of IIA  
mail**

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### Philatelic Knowledge

Care is taken to ensure proper descriptions of philatelic elements to demonstrate knowledge of philately and includes information on cancel devices, rates, rarity or other justified information as appropriate.

### Condition and Rarity

Covers are selected for best condition, bearing in mind service mail is seldom pristine. Folds, creases, nicks, small tears or missing corners are indications of actual transit through the mail systems of the time.

Examples of Institute of Agriculture service mail may be found in League of Nations or Food and Agriculture Organization exhibits. Due to scarcity of the material, this is the only exhibit comprised solely of IIA material. Rarity of service covers is determined from published sources. Key items are matted on dark green.

- **Service cover from David Lubin (1 recorded)** Page 1
- **Earliest recorded service letter mail from the Institute** Page 2
- **Earliest recorded service printed matter from the Institute** Page 3
- **International Society of Soil Science service letter mail (1 recorded)** Page 6
- **Overprinted service stationery for use of FAO (4 recorded)** Page 12

### Literature References

- David Lubin: The Grandfather of the FAO, *"The Journal"* (United Nations Philatelists, Inc), Vol 33, #4
- A FAO Forerunner Cover, *"The Journal"* (United Nations Philatelists, Inc), Vol 26, #3
- The Origins of the FAO, *"The Journal"* (United Nations Philatelists, Inc), Vol 29, #3
- United Nations Philately, Arleigh Gaines, R&D Publications, New York, N.Y., pages 1441-1443