

Cancellation Devices of the International Institute of Agriculture

Rome, Italy - 1906-1946

Exhibit Scope

This marcophily exhibit presents all six 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 1905 while in Rome with the financial support of King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy. The Institute, formalized in 1906, became the international distributor of reports on agricultural law, statistics, plant diseases, fertilizers, entomology, soils, etc. The Institute maintained an internal postal facility and a visitor mail dropbox.

Exhibit Development

Exhibit development progresses chronologically by appearance of cancellation devices. Examples of service mail are used exclusively to demonstrate use of the six devices and illustrate the evolution of changes at the IIA postal facility. The demise of the Institute and its absorption by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is shown through overprinted stationery.



Discovery copy of IIA.S1B
Page 4

Philatelic Knowledge and Research

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. Personal research is evidenced with the discovery of new device type IIA.S1B.

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 material scarcity, this is the only exhibit comprised solely of IIA material. Rarity of service covers is determined from published sources. Key items are matted on sunflower/olive matts.

- **Earliest recorded service mail from the Institute and datestamp device IIA.S1A** Page 2
- **Earliest recorded service printed matter from the Institute** Page 3
- **Earliest recorded example of datestamp device IIA.S1B (Discovery Copy)** Page 4
- **Service cover from office of David Lubin (1 recorded)** Page 5
- **Earliest recorded example of datestamp device IIA.S2** Page 6
- **International Society of Soil Science service mail (1 recorded)** Page 8
- **Overprinted IIA service stationery for use of the 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