



Election for FIP President 2018

Bulletin Six

An open letter to the Federations of the FIP

I am standing for election as President of the FIP, and it's important that you know who you are voting for.

My father was a baker, getting up at four in the morning for most of his working life, my grandfather was an electrician working in the shipyards during the First World War and then at a Shell oil refinery, and my great grandfather was a coal miner who died at the age of sixty in one of Britain's biggest mining disasters in 1910.

I have lived a lucky life, mainly because I was born after the Second World War, at a time when free health and education were introduced for working people.

So, starting as an accounts clerk, I went on to train as a teacher, I got involved in politics, and started a successful business when I was forty. Throughout my life I have been involved in voluntary organisations supporting schools, housing and the arts. I retired in 2011 when I sold my share of the business.

I was lucky also to meet my Danish wife, who is also a collector, whom I married when I was 23, and who together with my business and education, gave me an international view, far from the small village where I grew up.

So today our family lives in Europe and Asia and our friends span the whole world.

In philately, my greatest good fortune was to join the Royal Philatelic Society London in 2005, at a time of great change. For many years it had been quite exclusive, but in 1986 it became a charity, and has had to change. It has taken a while, and there's more to do, but the Society has never been more open and welcoming of new members whose only interests have to be excellence in research and a passion for philately. The Royal doesn't pay for travel or hotels, so I have been fortunate to be able to pay for myself.

The result is that the Society has grown by almost 1000 members in the past twenty years, has developed its websites, broadcasts its displays and presentations on YouTube, and is gradually making its library and museum available on line. Because of this success, it has to move to a new building in 2019. It is one of the most successful philatelic societies in the world, with a majority of its members living outside the United Kingdom. I hope that this will continue, and I am proud and glad to have been part of this success story.

I have one more career move in my life, which is why I am running for President of the FIP. I have been in public and voluntary service, social democratic politics, successful business, and in this time, I have learned a lot about life, marketing, publicity, IT, accountancy, the law, and the governance of public, private and

charitable organisations. An important lesson, which I have learned, is that voluntary organisations, like the FIP, don't work without cooperation, without involving others in decisions, and making sure that everybody is heard. I think that I am qualified for the job.

The FIP is important to World philately, and it has to do its job better than it has in the past. I can offer change, and I believe that I am experienced enough to help that change be successful. You can see my Philatelic CV and my nomination form for President at <http://www.fotfip.online/fip-has-an-election-for-a-president-in-2018>

I would be grateful and honoured if you were to vote for me in December.

With best wishes

Chris King