



Election for FIP President 2018 Bulletin Nine

What is the FIP for?

Chris King - Candidate for President of the
Fédération Internationale de Philatélie.

My CV <http://www.fotfip.online/fip-has-an-election-for-a-president-in-2018>

Dear Philatelic Friends and Colleagues

What is the FIP for?

You would think that this is an easy question to answer.

The statutes are clear. The job of the FIP is:-

- To promote stamp collecting and philately.
- To maintain friendly relations and friendship among all peoples.
- To establish and maintain close relations with the philatelic trade and postal administrations.
- To promote philatelic exhibitions by granting Patronage and Auspices.

One of the many reasons that I am standing as President is because, for as long as I can remember, it has done none of these, except the last, but there has been very little promotion of any show by the Board.

Promoting stamp collecting, maintaining friendly relations, working with the philatelic trade, which includes the press, and promoting exhibitions? I don't think that our FIP Board is at first base with any of these.

Why is this important?

Estimates for collectors vary between 60 and 100 million worldwide, it's difficult to estimate since most collectors don't belong to philatelic organisations. Perhaps 1% of these are top level philatelists, but many others exhibit and display at club, regional and national levels. This sector is much healthier than the international scene, and the FIP mostly ignores it. These people are our future.

- The number of collectors who know about the FIP is small.
- The number of collectors who care about the FIP is very small.
- Of those who know about the FIP, there are many who don't trust its Board.
- Some Federations think that it should be abolished.

I think that there are fewer than 2500 exhibits in the world qualified for FIP exhibitions, and this is probably an overestimate.

A lot of people say our hobby is in decline. They ask what will happen when there are no more stamps?

I have asked a lot of dealers and market specialists how many collectors they think there are.

No one has ever given me a clear answer.

Some have asked me to think of how many collectors there must be in the world who buy and sell on line. It's not just eBay or Delcampe, but there are a lot of other online platforms as well as the websites and web shops. Some are language based like Tradera which operates generally in Sweden, which was owned by eBay, but later acquired by PayPal. There are many individual and corporate traders, and for auction houses there are consolidators such as Stamp Circuit, Philasearch and Stamp Auction Network, as well as their own websites and online catalogues.

All of this tells me that the death of philately and stamp collecting – which has been predicted for over a hundred years – is greatly exaggerated.

The FIP is important because it is THE international organisation which establishes guidelines for competitions and provides information about major stamp exhibitions. There are Federations which want to walk away from the FIP, but without the FIP there is no international voice for philately. Our problem is that there are many tens of thousands of exhibitors and displayers, and the FIP is of no interest to them.

So, we have to change.

If you don't think that there is a problem, then don't vote for me.

If you don't want the FIP to change, then don't vote for me.

But, if you want to make the FIP ...

- More effective.
- More open and inclusive.
- More democratic.
- Interested in the all of its members and not just those who vote the 'right' way.
- Independent, unbiased and honest.
- Work harder for all collectors and philatelists.
- Promote the hobby for collectors, researchers and experts.
- More visible in the press and philatelic journals.

Then please vote for me.

I am asking all of our Federations to vote for me in Bangkok in December, because it is the interest of all of us to make the Board work with all parts of organised philately to stand up for, and to promote, our hobby.

Philately is the most sociable of hobbies, and we work best when we work together. Just think of all of those teams of volunteers who make our great world exhibitions such a success. So, let's work together to make the FIP work for all of us.

Come to the Clarion Hotel in Prague on August 16, 2018 from 16:00 to 17:00 to talk to me, to hear what I have to say, and to express your opinions. I will be in the Commissioners' Room on the Third floor with some snacks and drinks.

You will be very welcome.

With best wishes

Chris King

How can you help?

Make sure that your Federation votes for me.

- Share my mailers with your philatelic friends and contacts worldwide.
- Come to my meeting in Prague at the Clarion Hotel on August 16th, from 16:00 - 17:00.
- Volunteer to help me with translations.
- See more at the Friends of the FIP website www.fotfip.online
- Link the Friends of the FIP website to others.

75th Congress, Bangkok, 2nd December 2018.

Election of a President: Thailand 2018

28th November-3rd December 2018.

Finally, as many of you will know, there have been changes in data protection law within the EU. Although a majority of the recipients of these mailings are not resident in the EU, I have updated the privacy policy for our website and for these mailings. You can see this by [clicking here](#)

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