



Datum

25.07.2025

### **Frank Gnegel – Candidate for CIMUSET Board Re-Election**

I have been Head of the Department of Collections at the Museum of Communication in Frankfurt since 1998. In this role, I oversee one of Germany's most significant collections on communication history—comprising over 380,000 objects housed across 15,000 square meters of storage space. I work with a team of three curators and nine museum specialists. My work focuses on documentation, preservation, and developing strategies for responsible collection management.

I studied Cultural Anthropology at the University of Bonn, where I received my master's degree in 1992 with a thesis on the history of the electric shaver. My academic background has led to a lasting interest in the history of everyday technologies, particularly small household appliances and their cultural significance.

My career in the museum field began shortly after graduation. I first worked as an assistant curator at the Westphalian Office of Museums in Münster. I then joined the House of the History of the Federal Republic of Germany in Bonn, before being appointed Director of the German Inland Waterways Museum in Duisburg in 1995. These positions allowed me to gain experience in different types of museums and various aspects of museum operations.

In recent years, I have been increasingly involved in questions surrounding the value of museum collections—how and why objects are preserved, and how institutions can evaluate their holdings in a meaningful way. At the Museum of Communication, I contributed to the development of internal guidelines for collection assessment and long-term collection planning. This work has helped to clarify institutional priorities and improve transparency in decision-making processes.

Alongside my work at the museum, I have occasionally taught courses on exhibition design at the University of Frankfurt. In 2019, I spent two months at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., as a visiting professional. This short-term fellowship offered the opportunity to learn from colleagues in a different institutional and cultural context and to reflect on shared challenges in the field.



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From 2022 to 2025, I have been a member of the previous CIMUSET board, serving as treasurer. I appreciated the chance to support the work of CIMUSET and contribute to discussions on financial planning and organizational matters. I value CIMUSET's important role in connecting museum professionals from around the world and fostering dialogue across institutional and regional boundaries.

I would be pleased to continue supporting CIMUSET for another term on the board. I see potential in further developing the committee's activities. While I do not claim to have all the answers, I hope my practical experience may be of use in the ongoing work of the committee.

Thank you for your consideration.