



THE CARTE PRIVÉE INTERACTIVE ARCHIVE



ESTABLISHING A CONTRIBUTION



*A Foundational Statement on Contributors
and the Historical Record*





PREAMBLE

Every enduring contribution begins with the work of individuals, workshops, studios, laboratories, and institutions.

Some contributions remain confined to their own time.

Others continue to shape the way future generations observe, create, build, measure, communicate, preserve, and understand the world.

The Carte Privée Interactive Archive recognises enduring human contributions whose significance has already been revealed and preserves them through Representative Objects and the knowledge required to understand why they matter. The contribution already belongs to history.

Institutional Establishment acknowledges its place within the Founding Collection and creates the permanent record through which that judgment may be understood and carried forward.

I. RECOGNISING A CONTRIBUTION

The Archive begins with the contribution.

Before approaching a prospective Contributor, Carte Privée identifies an enduring human contribution worthy of preservation and determines the Representative Object judged to express it most clearly.

Recognition precedes contact.

The governing question is not which celebrated object or institution should be included, but what enduring human contribution deserves preservation and which object gives that contribution its clearest historical expression.



I. RECOGNISING A CONTRIBUTION (Cont.)

Only then does Carte Privée identify the person, workshop, house, institution, organisation, or other entity whose work makes that object a compelling representative of the contribution.

That entity may be invited to participate as its Contributor. The invitation therefore begins with recognition, not sponsorship.

A Contributor does not purchase or acquire an Archive Position. Nor does participation give the Contributor ownership or exclusive definition of the human contribution represented there.

Carte Privée retains independent institutional judgment in every establishment.

II. THE ROLE OF THE CONTRIBUTOR

Every Institutional Establishment creates a relationship between independent forms of knowledge.

Carte Privée is responsible for the judgment that the contribution belongs within the Founding Collection and that the selected Representative Object is its clearest expression. The Contributor brings knowledge of the object, its origins, development, making, circumstances, and historical significance.

Where a Contributor chooses to participate, Carte Privée works with it to preserve this knowledge as accurately and meaningfully as possible.

This may include the people responsible for the object; its place and circumstances of origin; its craftsmanship, engineering, materials, techniques, and philosophy; its historical development; and the circumstances through which it became an enduring expression of the contribution.





II. THE ROLE OF THE CONTRIBUTOR (Cont.)

Contributor participation strengthens the historical record.

It does not determine the constitutional judgment recorded by Carte Privée.

The distinction matters.

The Contributor helps ensure that the object and its history are understood faithfully.

Carte Privée determines why they belong within the Archive.

III. THE PRESERVATION RECORD

Every established contribution receives one authoritative Preservation Record.

The Preservation Record follows the constitutional structure established by the Charter:

Representative Contribution -> Representative Object ->
Institutional Establishment -> Archive Record

The Representative Contribution identifies the enduring human practice, advancement, or form of cultural knowledge being preserved.

The Representative Object records the historically specific object, model, or object type established as its clearest representative expression.

Institutional Establishment records Carte Privée's permanent judgment explaining why the contribution belongs within the Founding Collection, why the object represents it, and why its preservation matters.

The Archive Record preserves the permanent factual institutional history associated with the position, including its establishment, object, Contributor, attribution and provenance, verification, custody and condition, conservation, correspondence, and institutional history.





III. THE PRESERVATION RECORD (Cont.)

Where the Representative Object denotes a model or object type, one or more particular physical specimens may also be documented as Representative Exemplars.

The Preservation Record remains the single authoritative institutional record of the contribution.

It is intended to endure.

IV. ESTABLISHING THE HISTORICAL RECORD

The historical record should preserve more than the identity of an object.

It should preserve the knowledge necessary to understand it.

Depending upon the contribution and Representative Object, the record may therefore encompass:

- origins and place of origin;
- creators, makers, workshops, institutions, and other relevant participants;
- historical circumstances;
- development over time;
- craftsmanship and methods of production;
- engineering and technical knowledge;
- materials and techniques;
- philosophy and design principles;
- documentary and archival evidence;
- attribution and provenance;
- conservation and condition;
- and the circumstances through which the object became an enduring representative of its contribution.

Not every contribution requires the same evidence or the same form of documentation.

The purpose is not to accumulate information for its own sake.

The purpose is to preserve what future generations will need in order to understand why the contribution matters.



V. INSTITUTIONAL ESTABLISHMENT

A contribution enters the permanent Founding Collection through Institutional Establishment.

Until that moment, a Provisional Representation may occupy its experiential position within the Interactive Archive.

A Provisional Representation allows the contribution to be encountered during the founding of the Archive without claiming that its permanent Representative Object or Contributor has already been established.

It confers no endorsement, authentication, acquisition, Contributor approval, or permanent status.

Institutional Establishment occurs only when Carte Privée is prepared to make the permanent judgment that:

the contribution belongs within the Founding Collection;

the Representative Object expresses that contribution with sufficient historical and cultural clarity;

and the resulting record is capable of preserving why that relationship matters.

Once established, the Archive Position is permanent.

The contribution may thereafter be studied, encountered through play, commemorated by members, and carried forward through stewardship.

VI. ESTABLISHMENT SEASON

Each of the nineteen founding contributions occupying Positions No. 002 through No. 020 enters the Archive through an Establishment Season.

An Establishment Season is not merely the unveiling of an object.





VI. ESTABLISHMENT SEASON (Continued)

It is the period in which an enduring contribution becomes part of the permanent institutional record and members are invited to understand the object through which it is represented.

The Representative Object may be encountered.

Its origins may be explored.

Its makers and circumstances may become known.

Its methods, ideas, and history may be understood.

Its Gameplay Expression allows the contribution to be encountered through interaction rather than observation alone.

The purpose of the season is not promotion.

It is establishment.

At its conclusion, the contribution remains permanently within the Founding Collection.

VII. THE FOUNDING COLLECTION

The Founding Collection consists of twenty permanent Archive Positions.

Position No. 001 is occupied by the Reserve Marker, the constitutional artefact representing Preservation.

Positions No. 002 through No. 020 are established through nineteen Establishment Seasons across the founding period.

Together, the twenty positions form a finite collection.





VII. THE FOUNDING COLLECTION (Cont.)

Each established contribution remains constitutionally equal regardless of the sequence in which it entered the Archive, the fame of its Contributor, the market value of its Representative Object, or the degree of public recognition associated with it.

Archive Position records sequence, not hierarchy.

A Founding Contributor therefore joins an existing institutional structure rather than creating or purchasing a place within it.

Its contribution becomes one part of a completed historical record intended to endure beyond any individual Contributor, member, object, or generation.

VIII. CONTINUITY

Institutional Establishment is permanent, but the historical record need not become static.

Knowledge may deepen.

New evidence may emerge.

Attribution may be corrected.

Representative Exemplars may be documented.

Conservation histories may develop.

Correspondence and institutional history may accumulate.

Gameplay Expressions may also be refined or rebalanced without changing the established identity of the contribution they express.

The judgment of establishment remains permanent.

The understanding surrounding it may continue to grow.





CLOSING STATEMENT

Every enduring contribution began with human work.

History reveals which contributions continue to matter beyond the circumstances in which they first appeared.

Carte Privée recognises those contributions and establishes them within the Founding Collection.

Contributors help preserve the knowledge through which their objects and histories may be understood faithfully.

Members encounter that record, learn from it, and carry its meaning forward.

Institutional Establishment therefore preserves more than an object.

It preserves the understanding required for an enduring human contribution to remain intelligible across generations.

