

# Colonel Carde's Principles

## Preparation

*Every exercise badly done is not only useless, but harmful.*

Every movement / exercise needs to be 100% clear for the rider before executed. Preparation does not start with the one of the movement itself, but earlier. The rider first needs to take into account the horse's age, training level and even the form on a particular day before he decides to ask the movement. Secondly he has to prepare the exercise regarding the moment, the place in the arena and the aids itself mentally, prior to asking the horse to do it.



## Patience

*Ask and wait!*

Give the horse time to understand and realize your aids, the more so if you teach something new. Communication with the horse does not mean you are the general and the horse your soldier receiving commands to which it has to obey immediately. Learning can only be done in a relaxing atmosphere where the horse gets enough time to understand, so be patient and allow the horse to listen to you.

## **Persistency**

*A clear question prompts the right answer*

Even though the horse gets time to understand, the rider is not allowed to make any compromises, but needs to be persistent with the aids and demands until the horse shows the desired reaction.

## **Progression**

*Go a millimetre day by day and do not try to leap one metre at once*



Do not attack your horse with abrupt aids, but give them clearly, but progressively.

Progression also means that a horse learns best and is not over-asked when we begin with more simple exercises and progress to the more demanding ones. This has an important mental effect on the horse as dressage is also about building confidence.

## **Precision**

*Before you ask know exactly what you want to ask*

The rider is obliged to act absolutely precisely in his demands and the aids which are given. As a consequence the horse should not hesitate to understand what is asked if him once he has learned and understood a movement.

## **Praise**

*Rest and reward many times, then the horse will dream of the work at night.*

You can never praise too much in a training of a horse, except you do it at a wrong moment. As soon as the horse reacts correctly, absolutely don't hesitate to caress and encourage the horse with your voice.

In the French school equitation it is also a form of subtle praise to cease the leg aid or yield with the pressure of the rein.

