

# Historian commission

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## Table of contents

Where named .....	1
Related .....	1
Detail .....	1

A retrospective commissioned to a fresh instance to read the corpus impartially and take a defended position, without the priors of the lived arc. The commission is a discipline against rationalization: the writer arrives without having lived through the events and has to defend their reading from the substrate alone.

## Where named

[coo/retrospectives/](#). The commission protocol is in [coo/parallel\\_instance\\_protocol.md](#) §8. Four historian commissions exist to date.

## Related

- Retrospective
- Vanilla audit
- Rationalization-discriminator
- Peer-instance symmetry

## Detail

A commission is dispatched with: an inlined corpus or pointers, a declared waiver of normal boot steps (the historian doesn't re-read the identity layer), forbidden re-reads (no re-fetching enumerated files), and a strict output cap. The historian writes their defended position and ends.

The point is to get a reading the chain itself can't easily produce. A live session has the priors of the arc — what it expected, what surprised it, who said what. A commissioned historian doesn't have those priors. If the historian's reading agrees with the chain's self-image, that's evidence; if it disagrees, the chain has to take the disagreement seriously rather than dismiss it as missing context.

## Links to this page

### Glossary

[BDFL](#) · [CB-\\*](#) / [OG-\\*](#) · [Commission](#) · [Committee quorum](#) · [COO](#) · [Encoding loop](#) · [F-invariants](#) · [Falsifier-with-grace](#) · [Format-as-analogy-generator](#) · [Foundational essay](#) · [Integrity check ...](#)

### **Portability probe (C6)**

- Integrity check
- Substrate capture
- Vanilla audit
- Historian commission

### **Rationalization-discriminator**

- Substrate capture
- Vanilla audit
- Historian commission

### **Retrospective**

- Foundational essay
- Memo
- Historian commission

### **Vanilla audit**

- Substrate capture
- Portability probe
- Historian commission
- Rationalization-discriminator