

FOUNDED ONLY A FEW MILES outside Petrozavodsk, Russia, in 1923, the Ferouk Institute was named after Alexander Ferouk, a psychiatric doctor from a wealthy upbringing.

HISTORY OF THE INSTITUTE

Initially funded by government grants and by donations from wealthy benefactors, the Institute was intended to study the illnesses of the mind and try to cure the afflicted. Initially it was a small facility, two dormitories holding up to thirty patients with several private rooms, for those whose families could afford or cared about their privacy. A small consultancy room and laboratory were built into the basement of the Manor house already located on the site, which also became the home of Ferouk and many of the doctors who would come to work here over the years.

THE FEROUK INSTITUTE CONSPIRACY X 1ST EDITION MILIEU

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Over the next thirty years, this small operation expanded, several seemingly miraculous recoveries paving the way to greater funding and donations. The staff now included no less than seven doctors, all with their own facilities and personal research agendas. Treatments varied enormously depending on the consultant, some worked with Electro-shock therapy, others with various forms of counselling or art therapy. Ferouk himself relied on a form of hypnosis and counselling that he claimed were derived from his studies of various mystical belief systems, sometimes assisted by concoctions produced

from local plants and managed to achieve a cure for one in seven of his patients.

In 1954, Dr. Ferouk was struck by a delivery truck during one of his visits to Petrozavodsk and died three days later never having passed on his theories or methods to another. The Institute continued without him; between 1954 and 1965, it went through four directors, and its cure rate fell drastically. Instead of being a hospital for the mentally ill, it became a dumping ground for lunatics and the unwanted, though funding began to tighten as wealthy patients were sent elsewhere the government sponsorship still kept the facilities in good repair.

A NEW DIRECTION

The sixth director of the Ferouk Institute arrived during the summer of 1966 and immediately took an interest in testing many of the social cast offs that the facility was home to, with an unusual battery of mental tests. The new Director was Dr. Anatol Vygoysky and he had strong connections with Project RASPUTIN. In a matter of weeks, government funding had doubled, and the Institute had several new research staff, all of whom were part of Project RASPUTIN. The Ferouk Institute became a clearinghouse for potential psychics.

The staff sifted the abandoned dregs that were left in their care, searching for some with a modicum of psychic talent. When a subject tested positive, he or she would be given treatment to develop their potential. Every six months the patients who scored highly with psychic capabilities would have their mental stability assessed, those who were considered usable being both psychically talented and sufficiently stable were then discharged to the care of Project RASPUTIN. Those who were deemed unfit remained at the Institute and received additional conditioning.

The Ferouk Institute continued to operate in this manner until 1980, when Director Vygoysky was himself replaced by Igor Tomaszewski. Director Tomaszewski, unlike his predecessor, was not a doctor by training; he was a military man and a member of the KGB. Recently assigned to the newly formed 10th Directorate, he had a new

mission of the Institute to fulfil. Though the Institute continued as a sanatorium, its work became a cover for experiments concerning extraterrestrial implants and analysis of claims of alien abduction and experimentation. Often, people who claimed to have been abducted by aliens were removed to the Institute on the pretext of mental illness.

Consequently, between 1980 and 1985, no fewer than thirty-seven meta-human hybrids were born into the care of the state at the Institute. Biological experimentation on these new humans became an order of business. Several of the older buildings were refurbished to act as an orphanage for those whose mothers were being treated at the Institute.

Then, with no apparent reason, the Ferouk Institute was suddenly on its own. The KGB suddenly chose to leave the facility to its own devices; ties to both Project RASPUTIN and Directorate X were deliberately obscured. Perhaps this was the result of precognitive warnings from Directorate X Agents; small stockpiles of equipment were prepared and buried in the grounds for later retrieval.

Government funding fell to a sub-normal level and then disappeared entirely; the Ferouk Institute, it seemed, had been completely forgotten. Director Tomaszewski seemed to take this in his stride. Then, in 1987, several investigators arrived at the Institute to assess the buildings and the work that they conducted. Though their Russian accents were near perfect, it was obvious to Tomaszewski that two of the five men were Americans; they seemed particularly interested in the work of the previous Director, Vygoysky and spent several days examining records, many of which had been faked or disappeared prior to their visit. The Institute simply appeared to be the crumbling home to a collection of lunatics and whatever connection there may have been in the past to Project RASPUTIN had ended when Anatol Vygoysky had been moved back to Moscow. The Aegis Cell conducting 'recruitment' of RASPUTIN resources left convinced that Ferouk had nothing of value.

A NEW IMPETUS

As Mother Russia began a series of metamorphoses, the Institute too decayed steadily, a combination of reduced funding and staff departures meant that several of the buildings were abandoned. The Director could do little but bide his time and wait; eventually, in 1991, this patience paid off. Tomaszewski received a midnight visitor from a Directorate X Agent who decided to return the Institute to a fully operational status.

Funds would be made available through the Russian Mafia, who would provide the money under the pretext of treating a Mafia family member. The fake paperwork was put in place, and the money began to follow once again. The old projects were put back into place to locate and train psychic operatives for the Directorate X and to conduct several experiments concerning the nature of the enemy. Several highly qualified doctors who were formally involved in genetics research at the University of Moscow found their way to the Institute through Directorate X dealings.

THE INSTITUTE TODAY

From the outside, the Ferouk Institute has the look of a miniature tractor factory attached to an old manor house. The grounds are extensive but not well kept, crumbling stone walls form the boundary to the land but provide no security, the iron gates that once stood as a barrier to the outer world have long since been sold to help keep the Institute afloat during its leaner times.

The Manor house, which was the only building to pre-date the Institute, is in the best state of repair. Recent influxes of cash have meant that the badly leaking roof could be repaired, and several of the other buildings received much-needed maintenance. Though the two buildings that were abandoned during the late 80's are in far too advanced a state of disrepair to consider renovations at this time.

The Manor house is the home to the Director and his core staff; lunatics are housed in three large dormitory buildings on the north and east sides of the manor house. The single remaining usable

building on the west side is now in a good state of repair and curiously seems to have better security than the building used to house the lunatics. This place is the orphanage. The basement levels of both the manor and the orphanage are now in use again as psychic laboratories and more nefariously as biological research laboratories, housing some very sophisticated, if not state-of-the-art, equipment.

CURRENT STAFF

The Institute has never had a lot of staff, and those that it does have are expected to put in long hours doing whatever needs to be done. The orphanage has three dedicated staff who act as both cook and caregiver to some fifty-three children aged between a few months and seventeen years of age; all but five of these children are meta-human hybrids. The older children are expected to help look after and care for the younger ones.

The Lunatic wing consists of three dormitory blocks that are little more than holding cells; conditions are poor with peeling paint on the walls and ceilings. Damp and cold are recurring problems, particularly during the harsh winters. There are twelve orderlies who work four to a building, each holding up to thirty patients, some of whom are forced to live two or three to a cell in the worst cases.

The Manor house, which has always been central to the Institute, is now in good repair, though the brass plaque that once adorned the wall by the front door has not yet been replaced after the original was sold off. The Manor is the home to Director Igor Tomaszewski, two Genetists (Pavel Lovanov & Georgi Meldanev), one medical doctor and three psychiatric doctors.

SECRETS AND HIDDEN AGENDAS

Though the Ferouk Institute is controlled by and provides a service to Directorate X, only Director Tomaszewski is actually a member of that organization and his age and failing health mean that his active participation in the running of the Institute is waning. Both Dr. Lovanov and Dr. Meldanev have access to resources of an

THE FEROUK INSTITUTE

CHARACTERISTICS

- **Research Institution:** Universal
- **Psychic Network:** Individual
- **Financially Motivated:** Individual
- **Criminal Syndicate:** Individual

PROFILE

- **Group Identity:** Normal
- **Leader's Identity:** Normal
- **Member's Identity:** Normal
- **Group Goals:** Covert
- **Structure:** Universal
- **Territory:** Single Entity - Localized
- **Membership Size:** Small
- **Membership Loyalty:** Dedicated

RESOURCES

- **Military:** None
- **Intelligence:** None
- **Science & Research:** Good - Full
- **Law:** None
- **Criminal:** Minimal - Restricted
- **Paranormal:** Decent - Limited
- **Civilian:** Minimal - Full

KNOWLEDGE

- **Military:** None
- **Intelligence:** None
- **Science & Research:** Minor Contacts
- **Law:** None
- **Criminal:** Major Contacts
- **Paranormal:** Major Contacts
- **Civilian:** Minor Contacts

PULLING STRINGS

- Laboratory [see Sub Rosa, page 90]
- Psi Labs [see Sub Rosa, page 95]

extraterrestrial origin, namely alien genetic material through sampling of the meta-human children. They are both aware that something they are not privy to is moving in the background.

A Directorate X Guard is stationed nearby; though Tomaszewski is a member of this group, he is not the leader. The Guard is to act as security for the Institute should it become necessary but otherwise is not to interfere. Additionally, this Guard is probably the only one in existence that has meta-human members recruited from the Institute. They are always viewed with suspicion, but their strong psychic capabilities have won them some measure of respect.

Many of the projects conducted at the Institute concern the development of wild talent psychic abilities. Psychic powers that are previously unknown or apparently unique to the individual displaying them. Over the years, several new capabilities have emerged (detailed below). Additionally, the work of Lovanov and Meldanev has seen the genetic engineering of several children who were then implanted and carried to term by female patients at the Institute, so the of the results are as terrible as they sound; most lead to miscarriages or the birth of infants who did not survive.

WILD TALENTS

Necro-Kinetics (Bio-PK Training)

Electro-Kinetics (PK Training)

CREATING FEROUK INSTITUTE PLAYER CHARACTERS

The Ferouk Institute is not a large organization and does not generally operate as a conspiracy. In all likelihood, characters drawn from the Institute will be members of Directorate X or simply escapees in which case they could be recruited by other organizations. It is unlikely that a whole player group would be drawn from this background but one or two may be possible.