

# The Arctic Concord



Nation Gazetteer



## The purpose of this book

This source book is a guide for players who are playing TRIAC operatives from the Arctic Concord. It contains a number of sections detailing social structure, outlook to other nations and also a costume and roleplaying guide as well as a brief history of the nation.

This may seem a slightly restrictive way of defining your character but the Age of Aether is made up of many distinctive and defining cultures and outlooks and it is this way for a reason. If you find after reading the book that the Concord is not for you then we invite you to look at the gazetteers that detail the six other nations to see if these suit you better.

The seven playable nations are all very different and have their own unique style and quirks. After this first section that explains the reason behind the documents the rest of the gazetteer is an in character (IC) document, written by a foremost scholar of the day and can be downloaded, printed and used as a prop and reminder to help with information in game.

In any case please read through the book and choose your concept carefully. You will enjoy your experience so much more if you choose the right archetype to immerse yourself in and we hope you find your niche in one of the seven.

Happy reading  
Macifaria Games

## A note on the world as it is

The nations of this world are very different from the ones you know. This world is like ours in many ways and has a lot of the same history. In our version however, certain events happened, or possibly didn't, which have shaped the planet in very different ways.

In this world invaders from Mars landed on earth in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of this, history changed and we see the series of events we have laid out in front of us in these books.

Another huge difference is the change in technological advancement that resulted from the Martian invasion. Science moved down different paths leaving no room for technology as we know it to advance. Frankly, in a world with a tech derived from advanced alien thinking and new alien elements and resources, why would you continue to use the mere mundane in the wake of such wonders? Who needs cannons when you could have heat rays...?

Ultimately, this world is different. Time scales have altered; things happened or didn't happen according to the forces that affected them. It is this world you need to embrace to fully experience this alternate reality, a world inspired, but not copied from the writings of H G Wells and other great literary minds.

And with that in mind please read on...



THE INDEPENDENT AND FREE THINKING NATION OF

# THE ARCTIC CONCORD

A GAZETTE BY RENOWNED HISTORIAN  
DR HERBERT MAITLAND

With the surprising and expeditious disappearance of Sir Henry Fitzroy Lancing from the Commonwealth in 1823, the world was changed forever as notable minds and some of the foremost scholars of the planet disappeared with him. Many were the rumours as to what had happened to the eminent scientist and I, for one, was eager to discover the whereabouts of this cabal of forward thinking individuals.

I did not have to wait long for this information. Whispers amongst the academic community were rife for years. Rumours that they had all been kidnapped by the invaders became a very popular theory alongside another that posited that the scholars had all defected to another nation.

It was not until 1834 that the truth was discovered. Sir Henry returned to the scientific community and announced the creation of a new nation to be known as the Arctic Concord. This scientific community was now ensconced in a new capital city under the ice of the Arctic named Concordia. I, for one, was intrigued by this new turn of events and was lucky enough to be invited to Concordia as an independent observer in the early part of 1835. The sights that I saw there I am unable to relate here as I am sworn to secrecy for the most part. There is however an entry further on in this gazette that explains the social structure that I witnessed in that marvellous city beneath the ice.

Citizens of Concordia are dedicated to research and the betterment of science. Members are chosen for their expertise in all of the new branches of advancement that now exist after the invasion and as a rule the boffins and practitioners of the Concord are focused on development in a secure and regulated environment. The particular speciality of the facility, however, are the aether sciences. It seems that during the many years that Sir Henry and his cabal were in absentia, the community focused its efforts into the design and constructions of machines and implants that manipulate the strange new power source of aether crystals.

This strong focus on aether tech leans towards the creation of items designed to be best used by the new type of human known as the Resonant. It was my observation during my short stay that this mutant strain of humanity, which is becoming quite prevalent in the world, is growing even more commonplace within the walls of Concordia. The

city is a haven for these new humans and the main focus of their research has been to further improve and create new versions of what the Prussians initially designed, the aether implant. These amazing devices are linked directly with the resonant to allow them to perform extraordinary feats simply by using the power of their minds to activate the technology without a power source. Truly astonishing, if a little unnerving.

This gazette is an attempt by myself to place the facts about this great nation into terms that are easy to read and understand. It is a fact of life in this time of war that knowledge is power and the world as a whole must rally together under the flag of humanity if we are to prevail against the invaders. By better understanding our neighbours we will surely have a better understanding of each other and in so doing increase our chances of victory.

### The State of the Nation

From my short but informative visit, I was able to deduce a number of things that have been pondered over for many years in academic and political circles. The first is regarding the strength and efficiency of the civilisation of Concordia. Although many have posited that the city could not survive on its own for an extended period of time, it is my estimation that this is simply not true. The city of Concordia has been crafted by some of the most talented engineers and scientists ever to walk the planet and the materials that it is constructed from are laced throughout with red steel and Aether crystal, making it a veritable fortress against the elements.

The second notion is that the relatively small state is politically and militarily inferior and that it is only a matter of time before one of the major nations makes a successful attempt at conquering it. Ladies and gentlemen, as you will read later in my gazette I think that the nation that attempts such an action may find themselves fighting an adversary more than capable of biting back. As to political strength, well you only have to look at the patents and innovations that have emerged from the depths of Concordia in the last few decades to see that they have scientific capital. Alongside this there is obviously the neutral footing they have taken in many conflicts since they emerged as a power and the hand they had in advancing peace in the world. No. the Concord is a strong if small nation that is capable and ready to act independently in the world and I predict, under the watchful eye of Sir Henry and the council of 5, the Arctic Concord will continue to be a force in the world for many a year to come.

The city itself seems to run in an almost cult like fashion with levels of security and access being provided with varying levels of scientific knowledge and understanding. Concordia is built on five descending levels that are coded by colour. Members of the

community are all given access to the first, or white level, which houses the residential and living quarters along with basic laboratories and everything you would expect to find in a regular city, including shops and entertainment.

Then, if you are a citizen with access and considered to have sufficient knowledge, you are permitted to descend to the second level of the facility, level green. I was permitted to venture into this space in the city and found it to be a most industrious place filled with what could only be described as the beating heart of the city above. Here I discovered the industry and power facilities that allowed the structure to exist in the frozen waters of the Arctic Circle. Vast generators and heat exchangers and devices and machines that I did not recognise are tended here day and night by workers who all wear the green insignia of their security rank.

From there, I was escorted to what would be the lowest I would be able to venture in my visit. As we entered level blue I began to get the distinct feeling that I was not welcome. From this point it seems that the city is dedicated almost totally to research and development. Laboratories and scientific testing facilities stretched in concentric circles around the main spine of the city with scientist and engineers working on god only knows how many secret projects. I was not allowed past the central concourse that overlooked the level and after a short discourse by my guide about how the research here was top secret, I was summarily hustled back into the elevator and sent back to the surface.

It was only later after I was returned to the white level I was advised that the other two levels of the city, the Violet and Black levels were of a level of security and scientific knowledge that were restricted to the majority of the community, let alone a mere visitor such as myself.

My final thoughts are of the possibilities that exist in the depths of the city. If the wonders of this new science are being explored in the cold darkness under the polar ice, then what amazing creations and inventions are being explored deep in the violet labs and what I wonder lies at the bottom of the structure in the most secret black level...

## Names and Personalities of Note

### The Council of Five

#### **Sir Henry Fitzroy Lancing**

Dr Lancing, as we know from Commonwealth history, is a brilliant and highly respected scholar of the Aether sciences. It is he who was the driving force behind The Arctic Concord and although little is known about the period of eleven years that he is missing, what we can be certain of is that Concordia and its surroundings are his design and brainchild. Sir Henry is now seventy three but still going

strong. He is himself a resonant of some power and holds the patents on many ground breaking Aether devices and implants that are used across the world today. He is a polite and gentle individual who still believes that scientific advancement should be monitored and controlled for the good of mankind and it is up to the Concord to provide the guidance needed to realise this.

#### **Dr Helen Chamberlain**

Dr Chamberlain is a member of the so called council of five and a brilliant scientist in the field of Martian retro engineering. Originally from the F.A.U, the good doctor heard the call and disappeared with her colleague Dr Lancing in 1823. She is a staunch defender of Dr Lancing's theories on scientific regulation and his strongest ally in the Concord. Dr Chamberlains work in offensive technology was fundamental in the miniaturisation of the giant heat rays from Martian walkers and a great loss to American science.

#### **Professor Donald Featherstone**

Donald Featherstone, also a council member, is a curious fellow in that his commonwealth heritage somewhat makes him a bit of an odd fish in the Concord. New to the organisation, the good professor was not an original member but rather came to the facility after it was revealed to exist in 1834. Seeing the great potential in a community run by scientists for the controlled betterment of the human race, he gathered his research on rudimentary Gauss technology and made the journey to the Arctic. This action fuelled the already growing animosity between the Commonwealth and the Concord leading to an even more unstable relationship between the nations.

#### **Dr Hans Werner PH**

The reputed Dr Werner is a highly trained scientist from the Berlin university of Aether sciences. He is one of the foremost minds in the field of Aether weaponry and the man responsible for the defence of the Concord. The Prussians were incensed when they discovered that one of the greatest scientists had defected to another nation but were soon appeased when the Concord agreed to share their knowledge of resonant physiology and shaved years off of their advanced implant programs. Werner is a stoic and serious individual, dedicated to his task of continually updating and maintaining the nation's war machines at home and abroad.

#### **Professor Chou Feng IEU**

The mysterious Professor Feng came late to the Concord. Feng is a resonant of incredible power that rivals even Sir Henry. The Professor is, as all council members are, cleared to level Black. It seems however that this mysterious oriental genius has more to hide than most and it seems that only Sir Henry has all the answers...

#### **National Outlook**

The Arctic Concord seem to have a defining moto which I have heard many a time and seen written on plaques and flags all over the city.

“Propter Scientia Pro Humanitate”

Roughly translated as:

“Science For The Sake of Humanity”

With that in mind it is obvious that the driving force of this nation city is the betterment of humanity through the controlled and responsible application of research and advancement. It was the specific reasoning that humanity was moving too fast that led Sir Henry to recuse himself from the scientific community in the first place and start the Concord.

At first it was very seldom that anyone saw members of the nation outside of their sphere of influence in the north but as the years have passed, we have begun to receive more visits from their population as research and scavenger teams move into Martian red zones to gather materials to further whatever projects they are working on in Concordia.

Their ongoing issues with the forces of the Russian Coalition are a constant worry to security forces worldwide who watch the sea and air battles in the North with interest.

Why this fighting continues, we do not know. Whether it is a territory dispute or some other issue that has woken the sleeping bear of Russia it is for the two nations to thrash out while the rest of us watch with interest.

Certainly the Concord does not seem to bear the world any ill will and has been happy in the past to aid in scientific and humanitarian missions globally since its emergence in 1834. They are hugely supportive of TRIAC and the international war bond currency and indeed, every other measure that has been taken to make sure that the world is stable. One can only wonder however, why this newest of nations is so open on the one hand and so secretive on the other? I put it to you good reader that the Arctic Concord is much like the ice bergs that float around Concordia, there is much more under the surface that we do not yet understand...

### **The Concord Home and Abroad**

At home in Concordia I found the people to be focused and involved in their everyday lives. Everyone seems to know their allocated place and job and does it to the best of their ability. When you live in an underwater city at the top of the world, surrounded by thousands of miles of ice cold water I imagine that it is best to be dedicated and useful at all times.

It seems that the people here are very aware of the security that surrounds the facility and are fiercely proud of their place and the colour that they wear to denote their clearance level. Even those

who simply wear white badges or cards are happy with their lot and that they are providing a service for the community as a whole. Above all this sit the council of five, the leaders of this great experiment. They are all responsible for different aspects of day to day life with Sir Henry being seemingly in charge overall. There is a military presence in the city that seems to be there for security and to protect the research as much as the population. This force is controlled by the Council and during my stay in Concordia I can honestly say that I never witnessed a single problem or issue that required these law keepers to get involved. To say that Concordia is a Utopia is not far from the truth, albeit, a little cold.

The Concord away from home however is very different. Exploratory research, or ranger teams as they are known strike out into the red zones to gain knowledge and resources using the technology that the city creates to better understand the remnants of the erstwhile invaders. They are always accompanied by members of the soldiery and rarely interact with others when they encounter them, but rather politely retreat. The Concord are not seen in force anywhere but in the seas surrounding their city. The submersibles and fast Aether gliders are the cities defence against attack and have only really seen use against the Russian Coalition where they have proved very effective.

#### **A Note on Aether Implants**

The speciality of the labs of Concordia has been Aether implants for many years now, certainly since the arrival of Dr Hans Werner to the Concord. The humans we now call Resonants have a natural home in Concordia and I estimate that almost thirty five percent of its population consists of these changed humans. The welcoming attitude and the technological symbiosis that exists here is the obvious draw for them and from what little I saw suggested that it is a marriage well made.

The implant, first discovered and created by Prussian scientists and later developed and innovated here in Concordia is a remarkable device. It allows the resonant to harness this power, coined the Aether, to charge and utilise a variety of different effects that would be impossible for a normal human being. It is here that Concord scientists excel and the most complex and powerful patents for these remarkable devices are coming out of the Concordia labs.

#### **A Note on Current Weaponry and Defences**

With their current wealth of experts in various fields the Concord potentially has the ability to focus on any of the lines of technology currently available to the nations of the world. When it comes to weaponry and defence however, it falls on Dr Hans Werner, the council member in charge of defence to choose the direction. With his grounding in the Aether sciences it is no surprise then that this nations forces favour aether technology and its various applications

on the battlefield.

Aether rifles and swords are the choice of the soldiers, reminiscent of the weaponry of the Prussian legions of Werner's homeland. The aether gliders and hulking leviathan submersibles that guard the city are brimming with a variety of weaponry which I was unfortunately unable to secure any knowledge on.

One thing that can be sure however, is that with every squad of soldiers and in every craft of ship there is always the presence of a resonant, usually of rank. The reasoning behind this is unknown but as with all things with this mysterious city there is much more to find if I simply had a higher clearance. Knowledge is indeed, power.

### **Politics**

It has been commonly noted that TRIAC operatives from the Arctic Concord tend, on the whole, to have the following views towards the allied nations:

#### **Russian Coalition**

The Russian Coalition and the Concord have been at a defacto state of war in the North for many years. It is unknown as to why this is and no one is talking. Suffice to say, relations are not good. TRIAC operatives however, are under strict orders that to keep their status they should, at all times, act with respect and take into account the bigger issues that plague the world in these dark post war days.

#### **The Prussian Hegemony**

For a long time the Prussians despised the Concord due to the inference that they "stole" one of their best scientists and put their research back years. This was mitigated when the nation shared a vast amount of data with them and put them back on track many years later. Today an uneasy detente exists between them. Prussians are slow to trust and it will take time for old wounds to heal.

#### **The Eastern European Union**

The union has no real issue with the Concord and the presence of Professor Feng on the Council of Five seems to have a great influence over the situation. Politically the Union and the Concord are amicable and friendly. Although not staunch allies these two nations seemingly get on well in these days after the Martians changed everything.

#### **The Commonwealth of Britannia**

There will never be good feeling between these two nations while Sir Henry still leads the Concord. It is the belief of the Commonwealth leaders that if he had not have left when he did that Britannia would have advanced fast enough to reclaim her Empire and once again rule the waves. TRIAC agents are at the very least civil but as with the Russians, relations are strained.

#### **The Federated American Union**

The Federated states see the Concord as a success story of justice and liberty. Throwing off the shackles of imperial or royal rule to create something better. They liken the rise of the Concord to the rise of the old US and consider them brothers in arms. Whether the Concord sees themselves in the same light the FAU are as close to a real ally as they could hope for in the present climate.

### **The Royal Australian Protectorate**

The Arctic Concord have had little dealings with the Australian Protectorate, the fact that they are so far away in the southern hemisphere may be reason for this. They have no feelings of animosity towards them although a clearer understanding of their technical prowess is a high priority.

### **Conclusion**

And so, good reader, I put my pen down and thank you for reading my small gazetteer of the Arctic Concord. I hope this opened your eyes to more of this nation's eccentricities and I also hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed writing it. If you did, then please take the time to read my works on the many other nations of this new and still emerging world.

Kind regards

Dr Herbert Maitland

## Roleplaying notes

### Roleplaying a Concord TRIAC Operative

To Role-play a Concord operative you need to remember the following things:

- You are a member of a very new and secretive nation comprised of many nationalities linked by scientific endeavour.
- Your leaders are revered as visionaries. Order and the rule of law is paramount for the safe running of Concordia.
- Security of information is paramount. You are fiercely proud of your security level and will strive to live up to your duty be you soldier, boffin or simple shopkeeper.
- The Russian Coalition intend to steal the secrets of Concordia and should not be trusted. TRIAC regulations do not allow for action to be taken but never let your guard down.
- The betterment of science and mankind is everything and you will strive to do so wherever possible.
- Resonants are our as equals as are Hyrcanians and Reptids. We can learn from these to the betterment of the Human race.

### Costume and Kit Guidelines

The Arctic Concord is, as the name implies, situated somewhere in the Arctic Circle. As a result, clothing will be warm and functional. There is, however, still a big influence from the many member nations that its citizens originally come from. Therefore, we see citizens of Concordia dressing in variants of their national dress but with a more winter feel to them. Fur collars and cuffs or heavier materials and longer cuts on coats and jackets. Maybe fur stoles and such could be added to dresses.

