Mr. Darby

Issachar Darby is the current alias of a ghoul elder, in his earthly guise as the owner/proprietor of the New World Hotel in Arkham.  His original name is all but forgotten, but he was a young French government official during the conquest of Cochin-China by Napoleon III in 1862.  At one point, he went on a fact-finding expedition into the highlands of Vietnam.  His entire expedition was slaughtered by Tcho-tcho tribesmen and thrown into a pit to feed a band of ghouls.  The ghouls found him still barely alive and decided to make him one of them, taking him into the ghoulish underworlds that attached to the Dreamlands.  He became a leader and a mighty sorcerer in his own right, eventually learning to materialize himself in a human-appearing body.  In this guise, he purchased a hotel in Arkham in 1900, renaming it the New World Hotel.  Since Arkham was already a powerful nexus point for the Dreamlands, it proved easy to make the Hotel a portal not only between the waking world and the Dreamlands, but also to many alternate waking worlds as well.  The elevator which "Issachar Darby" installed is a gateway to these alternate Earths.  People who are sensitive to the arcane, or various forms of seekers and pilgrims, are often drawn to the Hotel, where they often as not become food for the ghouls.  To those who prove able to defend themselves, Darby is friendly and helpful.