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Category: Did You Know?

The Sarkies brothers (Martin, Aviet, Tigran and Arshak from Julfa, Iran) founded the Sarkies Brothers Properties in Southeast Asia. Martin, an engineer, built the Eastern and Oriental Hotel in Penang (Malaysia) in the early 1880s. The brothers also built the Strand Hotel in Rangoon (Burma/Myanmar). Martin and Tigran founded Raffles in Singapore (1887) by converting an old bungalow into a 10-room hotel. They named it after Sir Stamford Raffles, founder of modern Singapore in1819. The Singapore Sling, a cocktail of gin, cherry brandy, lemon juice and soda, was first mixed at the hotel's Long Bar in1903. The Strand, the Eastern and Oriental and Raffles—still operating—are considered national monuments.

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