

Chapter X

The First Meeting

Meeting Mr George Tan Soon Gin, the Founder of the Carrian Group of Companies, for the first time, was an experience for just about everybody.

One could not help but be mesmerised by his panache.

He was confident in any task he determined to tackle; he was exuberant and, seemingly, untiring; and, he seemed to know his business, from running the largest travel agency in the British Crown Colony of Hongkong in the early 1980s, known as Kent Travel Ltd, to acquiring and organising the largest fleet of taxis, ever owned by a single entity in the Colony, to acquiring public companies, listed on The Hongkong Stock Exchange, to making multi-billion-dollar property acquisitions in a flash.

Nothing seemed to be impossible for this businessman whose daring entrepreneurial exploits, during the height of his success, are now legend.

But he was an over-trader and his end came almost as swiftly as his elevation from a non-entity to the richest man (on paper, at least) of the territory.

For some years, he could do no wrong, it seemed.

But something was terribly wrong with the entire Carrian pack of cards, as history has recorded, and, when the winds of time blew in, the pack collapsed, and gone was the \$HK7-billion market capitalisation of his group of publicly listed companies.

Many Hongkong investors saw their life savings suddenly disappear; there was pandemonium – the abode of the demons.

In the second part of Chapter X of Mr Raymonde Sacklyn's latest book about the history of the Hongkong stock exchange, starting from 1969, he explains, among other things, his first encounter with Mr George Tan Soon Gin.

Chapter Ten is, now, freely available at [The Raymonde Sacklyn's](#)

[Column](#) for your enjoyment.

This chapter is cut into 4 sections for the convenience of readers.

Some of the chapters of this book, no doubt, will make a number of personalities of Hongkong cringe at their actions of yesteryear (or their lack of actions), but the book is historical fact – because Mr Raymonde Sacklyn lived through this period – and he is part of Hongkong's financial history.

While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published, TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which they have read in **TARGET**, please feel free to e-mail your views to editor@targetnewspapers.com. **TARGET** does not guarantee to publish readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*