

QUEEN OF ENGLAND ANCESTORS LIVED IN ARMENIA

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In 2001 history professor Suren Ayvazian of Yerevan University wrote to Queen Elizabeth II demanding the return of the treasury of the Kingdom of Cilicia, which was overthrown by the Memluks in 1375. Armenia's last king (Levon VI) was captured by the Memluks and taken to Egypt. He was released thanks to ransom paid by European royalty. In 1378 he signed an agreement depositing the Cilician treasury with King Richard II of England for safekeeping until his kingdom regained its independence. Prof. Ayvazian damaged his credibility when he claimed the English people originate in ancient Armenia's Angl-tun region in the second millennium BC. "That is why Levon I, following the tradition of Armenian rulers, handed the Armenian treasury for safekeeping in those who came originally from Angle-tun—to the English king," he told an Armenian newspaper. He also suggested that the House of Windsor derives its name from the Armenian word meaning "gorge (tsor) of the vineyards (gwini). That means the ancestors of the current Queen lived in Armenia in a gorge where grapes were grown," he suggested.

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