



The California State University, Fresno
Armenian Studies Program
the National Association for
Armenian Studies and Research (NAASR)
and the Leon S. Peters Foundation present

“MISAK MEDZARENTS THE REVOLUTIONARY: LAST AND LOST POEMS”



by

Dr. James Russell

*Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies,
Harvard University*

Misak Medzarents is best known as a writer of lyric poems full of his dreams of love, visions of his childhood village on the Euphrates in Armenia, and hymns to nature and nobility, all suffused with brilliant and subtle colors. He wrote mostly towards the end of his short life, in Constantinople, under the oppressive regime of Sultan Abdul Hamid. Because of this, his political awareness, his sentiments about the state of the Armenians, and his participation in Armenian activism are little documented.

But we do have fragments of several lost poems, and one complete one, that are political, even revolutionary. Their language and tone are very different from that of the rest of his work — they reveal a Medzarents we did not know, one who might have evolved further, changed as an artist in dramatic ways, had he lived even a few years longer. This is the final chapter of a life in letters, paralleling in some ways the last chapter of the life of the Armenians in the Ottoman Empire before it, too, came to a tragic end.

*Dr. James R. Russell is the Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University. Professor Russell has authored over one hundred scholarly articles, many of which have been collected in his *Armenian and Iranian Studies* (2004). He is most recently the author of a study on and translation of the collected poems of Bedros Tourian entitled *Bosphorus Nights* (2006).*

Monday, March 14, 2016 • 7:30PM

University Business Center • A. Peters Auditorium • Fresno State

PARKING: Parking in Lots P5 and P6 near the UBC.

Use parking code 273615 for free parking.

