

THE ARARAT ESKIJIAN MUSEUM
AND
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH
Present



FROM NAKHIJEVAN TO THE NETHERLANDS:

Thomas Vardapet of Vanand and Armenian Printing
in Amsterdam, 1677-1708

A Lecture by

Dr. Sebouh D. Aslanian

Richard Hovannisian Professor of Modern Armenian History, UCLA

Sunday, June 4, 2017, 4:00 p.m.

**Ararat-Eskijian Museum-Sheen Chapel
15105 Mission Hills Road, Mission Hills, CA**

In 1677, an Armenian archbishop named Thomas Vanandets'i left his small hamlet of Vanand in Nakhijevan with his two nephews and traveled across Asia Minor and all the major courtly centers of Europe in quest of support and patronage for establishing Amsterdam's fourth Armenian printing press in 1695. Relying on a Latin-language memoir Thomas published in London in 1707, an earlier and heretofore-unknown account of his travels published in Spanish in Madrid in 1691, as well as archival documents from a dozen collections in Europe, Prof. Sebouh Aslanian's presentation will examine Thomas's role in the history of Armenian print culture in Amsterdam and explore his forty-year peregrinations, focusing on the ignored but ubiquitous genre of the letter recommendation (յանձնարարական նամակ) that allowed him to traverse different networks spanning the world of early modern Eurasia.

Dr. Sebouh Aslanian has held the Richard Hovannisian Chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA since 2012. He is the author of *From the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean: The Global Trade Networks of Armenian Merchants from New Julfa* (2011) and *The Polycentric Nation: Dispersion History and the role of Simeon Yerevantsi's Girik vor Kochi Partavchar in the Eighteenth Century Armenian National Revival* (2004), as well as articles appearing in *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, *American Historical Review*, *Book History*, *Diaspora: A Journal of Transnational Studies*, *Études Arméniennes Contemporaines*, *Handes Amsorya*, *Journal of World History*, *Journal of the Society for Armenian Studies*, and *Journal of the Social and Economic History of the Orient*.

For more information about this program, contact Ararat-Eskijian Museum at (747) 500-7585 or Ararat-eskijian-museum@netzero.net, or NAASR at (617) 489-1610 or hq@naasr.org.