

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ARMENIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH (NAASR)

PRESENTS

CALOUSTE GULBENKIAN AND "THE BASTURMA PROBLEM"

A talk by Jonathan Conlin,

author of Mr Five Per Cent: The Many Lives of Calouste Gulbenkian, the World's Richest Man

> Thursday, April 11, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. At the AGBU New England Center 247 Mt. Auburn St., Watertown, MA

> > Doors open at 7:00 p.m.

RECEPTION BEFORE AND AFTER PROGRAM.

Born into the Armenian merchant elite of Istanbul, the renowned oil magnate Calouste Gulbenkian made his fortune as a 'business architect', persuading rival oil companies to collaborate for their mutual enrichment. At the time of his death he was the richest man in the world. Gulbenkian's fellow Armenians looked to him—largely in vain—for leadership and financial support. Did Gulbenkian succeed thanks to his Armenian "amira" roots, or despite them?

Published to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth, *Mr Five Per Cent* reveals Gulbenkian's complex and many-sided existence. Written with full access to the Gulbenkian Foundation's archives, as well as many other archives in multiple languages around the world, this is the fascinating story of the man who more than anyone else helped shape the modern oil industry.

Jonathan Conlin was born in New York and later moved to Britain, where he studied history at Oxford. He went on to do graduate work at the Courtauld Institute and Cambridge. Since his appointment to the University of Southampton in 2006 he has taught courses on a unusually wide range of topics, from the moral philosophy of Adam Smith through the history of cemeteries to the impact of evolution on Victorian society. He regularly comments on museums, heritage and television history for *History Today*, *Museums Journal* and R4's "Today" programme.

Copies of Mr Five Percent will be available for purchase and signing.

CONTACT NAASR AT 617-489-1610 OR HQ@NAASR.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Co-sponsored by NAASR and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

