



BOSTON UNIVERSITY
MODERN ARMENIAN HISTORY
& LITERATURE LECTURE SERIES

Organized by
The Charles K. and Elisabeth M. Kenosian Chair
in Modern Armenian History and Literature

Co-sponsored by
National Association for Armenian Studies and Research,
Belmont, MA

Calm before the Storm:
The Armenian Poet Misak Medzarents
on the Threshold of the Genocide

lecture by

Professor James R. Russell
Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies
Harvard University

Wednesday, October 13, 2010
6:00pm
The Castle, 225 Bay State Road
Boston University



Misak Medzarents
(1886-1908)

The lyric poet Misak Medzarents, who migrated to Constantinople from the interior Armenian heartland, is known for his lyrical idylls and elegies of nature and traditional rural life. Part of the reason for this focus was personal; part of it was an attempt to create in a period of stifling censorship; but part also, Professor Russell argues, is a conscious project to construct a new kind of Armenian rooted in land and arms rather than deracinated urban life, trade, and money. Medzarents was also involved in creating a viable Armenian national language. Russell will attempt to relate this to parallel contemporary developments in the Russian Empire among the Jews: the forging of Zionism and the resurrection of Hebrew.

Professor James R. Russell, Mashtots Professor of Armenian Studies at Harvard University since 1992, is the author of several books, including *Bosphorus Nights: The Complete Lyric Poems of Bedros Tourian* (2005), *The Book of Flowers* (2003), *The Heroes of Kasht: An Armenian Epic* (2000), *Zoroastrianism in Armenia* (1987), and *Hovhannes Tlkurantsi and the Medieval Armenian Lyric Tradition* (1987).

Open to the public, admission free
Hors d'oeuvres reception to follow