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SANS FRONTIÈRES

Calouste Gulbenkian “l’homme de nulle part”

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ARPA Institute On-Line Presentation

By Dr. Jonathan Conlin

On “Calouste Gulbenkian: Nowhere Man?”

On ZOOM

Saturday, October 3, 2020 @ 12:00 Noon, PST

Abstract: Kayseri, London, Paris, Beirut, Lisbon: the Ottoman-Armenian oil magnate, art collector and philanthropist Calouste Gulbenkian (1869-1955) was a man in constant motion, and seems to epitomize the rootless “citizen of nowhere” demonized by today’s populist leaders. The companies he created (Shell, Total) are widely blamed for destroying the planet. Even within the Armenian diaspora, Gulbenkian is critiqued as much as celebrated: a “great Armenian”, it would seem, but not a “good Armenian”. Who was this “nowhere man”, who had “the world at his command”?

Jonathan Conlin was born and raised in New York, and studied History at Oxford, Cambridge and London universities. Senior Lecturer in History at the University of Southampton since 2006, his books include a biography of Adam Smith and a comparative history of Paris and London. His biography of Gulbenkian, *Mr Five Per Cent*, has been translated into Armenian, Turkish, Russian and Portuguese.

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