Abstract: Archaeologist and linguist David Brainerd Spooner was an early graduate of Stanford University (1899) who did considerable work and writing in archaeology, Indian religion, Indian history, languages, and linguistics.

Biographical / Historical

David Brainard Spooner was born at South Vernon, Vermont, February 7, 1879. Educated at Stanford University, AB 1899, then taught in Japan at the Prefectural College of Omi at Oatsu. Later he taught at the School of Foreign languages, Tokyo, and then at the Imperial University. He was the first foreigner to graduate from the Imperial University with an Lit.D. Attended the British Government College at Benares, 1901-02 and the Sanskrit College in Benares, 1902-03. He was attached to the Siamese Legation at one time. Granted a fellowship by Harvard and was awarded a Ph.D. from King Frederick William University in Berlin, 1906.

Spooner went to India prior to 1908 as a member of the British Archaeological Survey. In 1910 he is credited with discovering the remains of Buddha near Peshawar, India. In 1915 Spooner married Elizabeth Colton of Easthampton, Mass. He became head of the British Archaeological Survey and did considerable work and writing in archaeology, Indian religion, Indian History, languages, and linguistics. Spooner died at Agra, India, Jan. 30, 1925, and is buried there.

(For a more complete biography see Spooner Correspondence File)

Scope and Contents

The Spooner Papers contain D. B. Spooner's correspondence from 1899 to 1922. The bulk of the correspondence was written between 1915 and 1918. The collection also includes manuscript, typescript, and printed copies of articles by D. B. Spooner. There are many manuscript and typescript language notebooks and studies. Also included are booklets in foreign languages, photographs, memorabilia, and some artifacts such as scrolls and palm leaves.

Spooner's primary work was concerned with Indian Archaeology and Indian Religion. Of secondary importance are his works concerning Indian History and various language studies.

Preferred Citation:
[Identification of item], David Brainerd Spooner Papers (M0011), Dept. of Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

Provenance
Gift of Mrs. Lawrence E. Norem, 1959.

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Conditions Governing Access
Open for research. Note that material must be requested at least 36 hours in advance of intended use.

Separated Materials
Much of the published material (articles, reprints, booklets, etc.) have been transferred to the library's general catalog. Eight photographs of Stanford University were transferred to University Archives.

Arrangement
Folders were numbered consecutively across boxes.

Subjects and Indexing Terms
India -- Antiquities
Buddhism -- Study and teaching
India -- Languages
Asia -- History
Series 1. Correspondence

Subseries 1.1 : Letters of D. B. Spooner Feb.1899 - Jan. 1922
Arrangement note
arranged chronologically

box 1, Folder 1-27 Outgoing Feb. 1899 - Dec. 1916
box 2, folder 28 - 44 Outgoing Jan. 1917 - Jan. 1922

Subseries 1.2 : Letters concerning D. B. Spooner, letter notes, letter fragments

box 2, folder 45 Outgoing letter fragments
box 2, folder 46 Miscellaneous letter notes
box 2, folder 47 Letters concerning D. B. Spooner

Subseries 1.3 : Letters to D. B. Spooner
Arrangement note
Arranged alphabetically by author and chronologically under each.

Series 2. Articles and Poems

Subseries 2.1 : Distribution List for Spooner Articles

Subseries 2.2 : Articles arranged alphabetically by title

The American Boarding School
Analytical Index to the Legends and Devices on Indian Seals
A Critical Study of Mallinatha’s Commentary on the Meghadula
The Bodh Gaya Plaque
Bricks in India
The Buddha Relics in Japan
Buddhism and Parseeism
The Charbinda
The Dasyavah of Behar
The Dedarganu Image now in Patna Museum
The Discovery of Kanishka's Vihara
The Field of Indian Archaeology
The Fravashi of Gautama
The Hindu Saturnalia
Indian Archaeology
Indian Linguistics
The Indian Reform Scheme in
Its Relations
The Indira of Bankim Chandra
The Iranian Element in Ancient India
The Iranian Element in Early India
Series 2. Articles and Poems

Subseries 2.2 : Articles arranged alphabetically by title

- The Kiratarjuniya of Bharavi Magh Mela
- Merv and Meru
- Mauna, Mauni and Maunindra
- The Mrigadava at Sarnath
- On a Houseboat in Kashmir
- Origin of Indian Art
- A Plea for the Bandit
- Quaint Stories from the Japanese
- Reply to Professor Keith
- Review of the Household Troops
- Short Discription of work in India
- Short Guide to the Archaeological Galleries in the Indian Museum, Calcutta
- Some English Speaking Birds in India
- Stanford University
- Mr. Tatan Tata's Excavations at Pataliputra
- The Triarchic Faith
- Varieties of the Visnu Image
- Vedic Notes
- Who Were the Prasioi?

Subseries 2.3 : Fragments of articles, notes on books, poems

- box 4-5, folder 94 - 107
  - Fragments and single pages of articles by D. B. Spooner
- box 4-5, folder 108
  - Gazetteer Appendix to the Index
- box 4-5, folder 109 - 111
  - Notes on Books
- box 4-5, folder 112 - 123
  - Poems

Series 3. Research Material

Subseries 3.1 : Notebooks and typescript copies of Spooner's works on Buddhism and Indian Religion

- box 5
  - Four notebooks with typescript annotated by hand on “Gautama the Archi-Magus”
- box 5
  - Two sheafs of typescript on “Gautama the Archi-Magus”
- box 6
  - Selections from the Poet Hali, Pearls and Cowrie Shells (poems by D. B. Spooner), Kiratarjuniya of Bharavi (prose translation and blank verse) manuscript, Manuscript Register of Dated Indian Images, Dr. Lee's Career by Miles Chapin
- box 7
  - Three notebooks typescript and manuscript entitled “The Gods of Hindustan”

Subseries 3.2 : Notebooks, also typescript copies of Zoroastrian Period of Indian History

- box 7, folder 124
  - Manuscript on Zoroastrian Period of Indian History
- box 7, folder 125
  - Manuscript on Zoroastrian Period of Indian History
- box 7, folder 126
  - Temple Types in Tirhut

Subseries 3.3 : Research materials in notebooks

- box 8
  - Manuscript copies of a chronological history of India

Subseries 3.4 : Notebooks and studies of Asian Languages, booklets in various languages
Series 3. Research Material

Subseries 3.4: Notebooks and studies of Asian Languages, booklets in various languages

Language Notebooks
Scope and Contents note
Six notebooks and two folders containing smaller notebooks on Asian, especially Indian languages

Language Study Notes
Studies of Asian languages

Booklets in Japanese

Booklets and Documents in Indian Languages

Register of Chinese Characters as Used by the Japanese

Series 4. Newspaper Clippings

Scope and Contents note
Large scrapbook filled with clippings. Also loose clippings in the front of the scrapbook.

Series 5. Personal papers and documents of D. B. Spooner and Mrs. D. B. Spooner. Memorabilia

Scope and Contents note
Personal Papers and documents of D. B. Spooner and Mrs. Spooner. Diaries of Spooner which were kept while he was at Stanford and while he was in Japan. Container consists of folders 139-155

Translations by Mrs. Spooner
Certificates given to Mrs. Spooner
Emergency Passport issued to D.B. Spooner November 1914
Samples of Papers used in India
Class Prophecy, Stanford 1896
Stanford Diploma 1899
Feathers of the Chakaichakwa Bird
"A Trip to Stanfordtown" [photo album]

Scope and Contents
Small album containing captioned prints of Stanford campus circa mid-to-late 1890s (Spooner graduated in 1899).

Diary Kept at Stanford. Diary Kept in Japan
Bankbook from the Bank of Bengal
Harvard Memorabilia
Tickets to Official Indian Functions
Conferring of Title of Shams-ul-ulama on Maulvi Muhammad Abdul Jalil
Plans and Sketch of University of Jerusalem
Bulletins no.654 & 655 of Zionist Executive Press Bureau
Diploma from University of Berlin
Contract between D.B. Spooner and Secretary of State for India April 5, 1906
Life of David Brainerd Spooner, Jr., PhD, O.B.E by Carolyn Case Norem; "Girl Linguist Soon to Marry Archaeologist" from Boston Sunday Post 11/26/1911; The Oriental Conference; Finding the Bones of the Great Buddha [typescripts]

Series 6. Photographs
### 6.1. Spooner

**Box 12, Folder 1**  
**D. B. Spooner in America, India, and Japan**

**Scope and Contents**
- Photos of D. B. Spooner as a child and as an adult, many of the latter taken in India.
- Some include Mrs. Spooner, some are group photos with colleagues.

**Box 13, Folder 14-15**  
**Spooner at home and in his study**

**Portrait of D. B. Spooner in elaborately carved wooden frame**

### 6.2. Japan

**Box 12, Folder 2**  
**Portraits from Japan**

**Scope and Contents**
- Most of these mounted portraits are labeled with the name of the individual depicted.
- Three of these photos are of Marquis Phya Rithirong of Siam (Thailand).

**Box 12, Folder 3**  
**Portraits, landscapes, buildings, and rooms from Japan**

**Scope and Contents**
- Portraits, landscapes, buildings, and rooms. Most portraits signed with a name.

**Box 12, Folder 4**  
**Photos of buildings from Japan**

**Scope and Contents**
- Series of prints of various pieces of architecture. Photographer: Genrokukan in Kyoto

**Box 13, Folder 1**  
**Photo of a woman (geisha?) by K. Ogawa**

**Box 13, Folder 2**  
**Photo of well-dressed man (Rithirong?) with two children**

**Box 13, Folder 3**  
**Group photo (ship's crew?)**

**Box 13, Folder 5**  
**Shinjuku Shogyo Gakko 1899-1900**

**Scope and Contents**
- Writing on reverse: "a group of students in fencing paraphernalia -- the Shinjuku Shogyo Gakko Otsu, Omi, Japan"

**Box 13, Folder 6**  
**Count Otani's private gardens at the Higashi Honganji**

**Scope and Contents**
- Writing on reverse: "A photograph of a picture of the Most Rev. Count Otani's private gardens at the Higashi Hongwanji, Kyoto, Japan. Presented to me by his son at the tiffin to Marquis Rithirong, July 2, 1900, during the ceremonies on the arrival from Siam of the Bones of Gautama Buddha."

**Box 13, Folder 7-10**  
**Group photos of Spooner in Japan**

### 6.3. India

**Box 12, Folder 5**  
**Temples, scenes, etc., primarily from India**

**Scope and Contents**
- Predominantly photos of archaeological structures. Many described on reverse.

**Box 12, Folder 6-7**  
**Photos from the Archaeological Survey, Eastern Circle**

**Scope and Contents**
- No. 675-748.
| Box 13, Folder 4 | Portrait of Masood Jung inscribed to Spooner 1924-06-05 |
| Box 13, Folder 11 | Unidentified photos from India |
| Box 13, Folder 12 | Group photo with Spooner taken in Benmore, Simla 1923-08-29 |
| Box 13, Folder 13 | Photo of the Dalai Lama and the Relics of the Buddha 1910-03-17 |

**Scope and Contents**

Writing on reverse: "Photograph of the Dalai Lama of Tibet with members of his court. His Holiness is in the centre, + holds in his hands the new golden casket containing the Relics of the Buddha. The original casket in which the Relics were placed by King Kanishra is on the table. The photo was taken in Calcutta March 17, 1910, and it is not permitted to publish it, under orders."

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| Box 12, Folder 8 | Miscellaneous photos |
| Box 14 | Signed portrait of the Earl of Ronaldshay as Governor of Bengal, 1917, in frame |

**Series 7. Artifacts**

**Box 15**

- Scroll with Chinese calligraphy

**Box 15**

- Scroll with Chinese calligraphy with tag - "20. The Ten Commandments"

**Box 16**

- Fabric and paper scroll with embroidery and ink in Mongolian and Chinese

**Scope and Contents**

Accompanied by undated note and translation: "For Mrs. Burton Livingston, Carlton Hotel, Washington. It may interest Mrs. Burton Livingson to know that the scroll which Mrs. Livingston was so good as to send to Mrs. Anderson has been deciphered by the Japanese student in the employ of Mrs. Anderson (A Doctor of Letters of Columbia University) as follows:

[first part] Imperial Edict for Civil and Military Rank System in China.

[second part] Imperial Record of a Mongolian General, dated about 1660-1708 AD

[third part] The same Manchu translation"

This note is followed by a handwritten translation of the text, which appears to be record of Manchu military service in a series of proclamations dated 1634 to 1720.

**Box 16**

- Burmese horoscope (jātā) manuscript recording the birth of a son in 1879, incised on palm leaf [i.e. bamboo?] 1879

**Scope and Contents**

Description from previous processing, no tag or other identification. Item is not described in original 1960 finding aid and may be part of another collection, possibly Evans-Wentz Buddhist Collection: https://oac.cdlib.org/findaid/ark:/13030/tf6d5nb228/

**Box 16**

- Palm leaf manuscript, no outer boards [original folder 156. "Satipatthana Buddha's Sermon on Meditation" written on outer leaf]

**Box 16**

- Palm leaf manuscript with painted wooden boards [probably original folder 157 "Buddhist Scripture written on Wooden Sheets"]