Finding Aid for the Joseph E. Spencer Papers, 1924-1985

Collection number: 1543

UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections
Manuscripts Division

Los Angeles, CA

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Joseph E. Spencer Papers,

Date (inclusive): 1924-1985

Collection number: 1543

Creator: Spencer, J.E. (Joseph Earle), 1907-

Extent: 19 boxes (9.5 linear ft.) 6 oversize boxes

Repository: University of California, Los Angeles. Library. Department of Special Collections.
Los Angeles, California 90095-1575

Abstract: Joseph E. Spencer (1907-1984) was a professor of geography at UCLA. His fields of expertise were East and Southeast Asia and cultural geography. The collection consists of manuscripts, course notes, syllabi, correspondence, publications, research files, and printed materials related to Spencer's life and career.

Physical location: Stored off-site at SRLF. Advance notice is required for access to the collection. Please contact the UCLA Library, Department of Special Collections Reference Desk for paging information.

Language: English.

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Restrictions on Access

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Additional Physical Form Available

A copy of the original version of this online finding aid is available at the UCLA Department of Special Collections for in-house consultation and may be obtained for a fee. Please contact:
Public Services Division
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Provenance/Source of Acquisition

Preferred Citation
[Identification of item], Joseph E. Spencer Papers (Collection 1543). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, University of California, Los Angeles.

UCLA Catalog Record ID
UCLA Catalog Record ID: 3222226

Biography
Spencer was born near Bolivar, Missouri, on September 11, 1907; grew up in the San Fernando Valley, California, and graduated from Burbank High School; BA, geography, UCLA, 1929; Ph.D, geography, University of California at Berkeley, 1936; worked for the Salt Revenue Administration Ministry of Finance, China, 1932-40; instructor in Geography, UCLA, 1940-42; served in World War II and afterwards returned to UCLA as an assistant professor; became professor of Geography (1953-75) and professor emeritus (1975-84); his fields of expertise were East and Southeast Asia and cultural geography; recipient of UCLA Teaching Award, 1966; received the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Association of American Geographers in 1968; retired in 1975; died on May 23, 1984.

Scope and Content
Collection consists of manuscripts, course notes, syllabi, correspondence, publications, research files, and printed materials related to the life and career of UCLA geography professor Joseph E. Spencer. Includes annual reports of the UCLA Department of Geography, announcements and minutes of department and committee meetings, and various newsletters.

Expanded Scope and Content
The papers of Joseph E. Spencer span the years 1924-1985. Biographical and autobiographical material includes curriculum vitae and memorial tributes. Activities of the UCLA Department of Geography are richly documented by annual reports to the University president, announcements and minutes of department and committee meetings, memoranda to staff; and a handful of student, alumni and department newsletters. Spencer's teaching duties are represented by course notes, syllabi, and examinations for nearly two dozen different classes, as well as preliminary and comprehensive examination questions administered across two decades. Correspondence with friends, colleagues and publishers in some cases spans more than two decades. Photographs include Spencer's family and research photographs which supported publications on Utah, Chungking (China), India, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), and numerous locations throughout southeastern Asia. Manuscript material includes drafts of articles and correspondence pertaining to a handful of papers as well as twenty years' worth of Spencer's reviews. Spencer's publications include offprints and reprints of many of his articles and book reviews. Research files supporting publications or class use include extensive field and reading notes on the cultural and economic geography of Asia.

Organization and Arrangement
Arranged in the following series:
2. UCLA Dept. of Geography (1924-83).
3. Teaching (1942-84).
4. Correspondence (1941-84).
5. Photographs (1930-52).
8. Research files (1933-83).

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.
### Biographical and Autobiographical Material

*Box 1, Folder 1*  
*Box 1, Folder 2*  
Death and memorial announcements issued by UCLA Geography Department, 1984.  
*Box 1, Folder 3*  
*In Memoriam* (biographical essay), 1985.

**UCLA Department of Geography**

*Box 1, Folder 4*  
Chairman's annual and biennial reports to the President, 1924-1946.  
*Box 1, Folder 5*  
Department meetings (minutes), 1925-1943.  
*Box 1, Folder 6*  
Graduate Committee meetings, 1939-1940.  
*Box 1, Folder 7*  
Letter from Robert M. Glendinning to George M. McBride re a program devoted to the solution of post-war problems, 1942.  
*Box 1, Folder 8*  
Student Geographic Society field trip notes, 1938, 1947-1949.  
*Box 1, Folder 9*  
Memos to staff, 1939.  
*Box 1, Folder 10*  
Memo from Myrta Lisle McClellan, 1939-1940.  
*Box 1, Folder 11*  
Memos to staff, 1962-1978.  
*Box 1, Folder 12*  
*Box 1, Folder 13*  
Historical chronology of the Department of Geography, University of California, 1882-1972.  
*Box 1, Folder 14*  
Graduate students and faculty meetings (minutes), 1972.  
*Box 1, Folder 15*  
*Box 1, Folder 16*  
List of completed Geography M.A. and Ph.D.s, UCLA and UC Berkeley, ca. 1978.  
**Geographic Society Newsletters, 1940-1949**  
- *The Polar Front Blast* (alumni).  
- *Bulletin - Alumni Group of the Geographic Society*.  
- *The Compass* (students).  
- *Westwood Zephyr* (a magazine for adolescent minds).  
*Box 1, Folder 17*  
*Box 1, Folder 18*  
**Note**  
(folder closed until A.D. 2058)

### Teaching

*Box 2, Folder 1*  
UC Extension 1A: Forums for Freedom (announcement) 1942.  
*Box 2, Folder 2*  
*Box 2, Folder 3*  
Geography 5: Man and the Earth Ecosystem (syllabus), n.d.  
*Box 2, Folder 4*  
Geography 101: Beginnings of Man (syllabus), n.d.  
*Box 19*  
Geography X103: East Asia.  
*Box 2, Folder 5*  
*Box 2, Folder 6*  
Geography 124A, 124B: Geography of Southern Asia (notecards), 1950.  
*Box 19, Folder 4*  
Geography X126: Eastern Asia (correspondence course), 1947.  
*Box 2, Folder 7*  
*Box 2, Folder 8*  
*Box 2, Folder 9*  
*Box 19, Folder 4*  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Includes typescript outline for book: *Themes in Advanced Cultural Geography*.  
**Note**  
(see also Box 18)
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<tr>
<th>Box 2, Folder 10</th>
<th>Geography 131 (syllabus), n.d.</th>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 1</td>
<td>Geography 175: Growth and Spread of Geography, 1949-1965.</td>
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<td>Box 3, Folder 2</td>
<td>Geography 189: Growth of Geographic Thought, 1979.</td>
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<td>Geography 240: Human Geography (syllabus), 1976.</td>
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<td>Taiwan Biogeography, 1970.</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 2</td>
<td>Seminar in Cultural Geography: Seoul, ca. 1977.</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 3</td>
<td>Untitled class lecture notes, n.d.</td>
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<td>Box 4, Folder 4</td>
<td>Unidentified examinations, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 5</td>
<td>Student papers, 1981, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 6</td>
<td>Individualized Preliminary and Comprehensive Examination questions, 1961-1978, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 4, Folder 9</td>
<td>Proposal by Cathy Enterton, 1979.</td>
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**Correspondence**

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<th>Box 4, Folder 10</th>
<th>Job recommendations for students, 1967-1978.</th>
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<td>Note</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 4, Folder 11</th>
<th>Job recommendations for students, 1979.</th>
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<td>Note</td>
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<tr>
<th>Box 5, Folder 1</th>
<th>JES: Most useful letters pulled from files by HJN, 1964-1982.</th>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 2</td>
<td>Broek, Jan, 1942-1961.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 4</td>
<td>Caviedes, Cesar, 1977-1981.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 5</td>
<td>Cresssey, George, 1954-1960.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 8</td>
<td>Hart, Fraser, 1972-1978.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 9</td>
<td>The Hartshorne Correspondence, 1959(?).</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 13</td>
<td>Kim-Young-II, n.d.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 14</td>
<td>Lee, Chan, 1979-1981.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 16</td>
<td>Roundy, Robert W., 1972, 1977.</td>
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<td>Box 5, Folder 20</td>
<td>Wikramatilek, Rudy, 1961-1980.</td>
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<td>Correspondence, v.d.</td>
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Box 6, Folder 1 1941-1949.
Box 6, Folder 2 1950-1959.
Box 6, Folder 3 1960-1969.
Box 6, Folder 4 1970-1976.
Box 6, Folder 5 1977.
Box 6, Folder 6 1977-1983.
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Box 7, Folder 1 1980.
Box 7, Folder 2 1981.
Box 7, Folder 3 1982-1984.
Box 7, Folder 4 Unidentified and undated correspondence, n.d.

Photographs

Box 7, Folder 5 Spencer family photographs, n.d.
Box 7, Folder 6 Utah photographs, 1930-1932.
Box 7, Folder 7 Southern Utah (Housetype photos used in Geographical Review article), 1930-1936.
Box 7, Folder 8 Utah Housetype pictures, 1936.
Chungking, 1937-1939
- Teh-Yuan Studio -- boat and river photos.
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- Model Shop, Ichang.
Box 7, Folder 9 Random Szechuan photos, 1937-1939.
Box 7, Folder 10 Prints from Hanley dissertation (1941), n.d.
Box 8, Folder 1 India enlargements and some small photos -- chiefly Taj Majal features, 1944.
Box 8, Folder 2 Maps of land, population in Malaya, 1946.
Box 8, Folder 3 Photos of Ceylon from Rudy Wikkramatilek, 1948-1952.
Box 8, Folder 4 House types slide list not before 1952.
Box 8, Folder 5 Bangkok and Japan photographs, n.d.
Box 8, Folder 6 South East Asia photographs, n.d.
Box 8, Folder 7 Asian culture (negatives), n.d.
Box 8, Folder 8 Himalayan rivers and water catchment maps, n.d.
Box 8, Folder 9 Miscellaneous negatives, n.d.
Box 8, Folder 10 Miscellaneous photographs, n.d.

Manuscripts

Box 8, Folder 11 Correspondence re manuscripts and publications, 1941-1979.
Box 8, Folder 12 Lady nicotine in China (manuscript, letter), 1941.
Box 8, Folder 13 On charcoal burning, and the role of the charcoal burner (typescript), 1965.
Box 18, Folder 1 - On charcoal burning ... (1965?).
- Control over water in southeast Asia (ca. 1974).
Box 18, Folder 1 - The growth of cultural geography in the United States (1979).
Box 18, Folder 1 - Fifty years later -- Varieties of Asian studies (n.d.).
Box 8, Folder 14 The control over water in Southeast Asia, 1974.
Scope and Content Note
(Typescript)

Scope and Content Note
Chapter 1, 2 (annotated typescript)

Box 18, Folder 3 Processes, Institutions and Societies..., ca. 1979-1984.
Scope and Content Note
Chapter 3, 4 (annotated typescript)
| Box 18, Folder 4 | *Processes, Institutions and Societies..., ca. 1979-1984.*  
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| | Chapter 7 (annotated typescript)  
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| Box 8, Folder 16 | *Reviews of JES, 1967-1978.*  

**Publications**

| Box 9, Folder 1 | *JES Publications, v.d.*  
| | 1931-1935.  
| Box 19, Folder 1 | 1935-1979.  
| Box 9, Folder 2 | 1936-1939.  
| Box 9, Folder 3 | 1940-1949.  
| Box 19, Folder 2 | 1940-1978.  
| Box 19, Folder 3 | 1949.  
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| Box 9, Folder 5 | 1959.  
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| Box 10, Folder 1 | 1962-1969.  
| Box 10, Folder 3 | 1974.  
| Box 10, Folder 5 | 1978-1979.  
| Box 10, Folder 7 | *JES Book Reviews, 1949-1978.*  

**Research Files**

| Box 11 | *Cultural and Economic Geography (5 × 8 Note Cards), ca. 1950-1960s*  
| | - File control sheet.  
| Box 11 | - Philippines.  
| Box 11 | - Pacific Islands.  
| Box 11 | - Far East--General.  
| Box 11 | - China.  
| Box 11 | - Central Asia.  
| Box 11 | - Manchuria.  
| Box 11 | - Korea.  
| Box 11 | - Japan.  
| Box 12 | *Cultural and Economic Geography (5 × 8 Note Cards), ca. 1950-1960s*  
| | - Southeast Asia--General.  
| Box 12 | - Burma.  
| Box 12 | - Malaya.  
| Box 12 | - Indies.  
| Box 12 | - India.  
| Box 12 | - Pakistan.  
| Box 12 | - Ceylon.  
| Box 17 | *Cultural and Economic Geography (5 × 8 Note Cards), ca. 1950-1960s*  
| | - Southeast Asia--General.  
| Box 17 | - Burma.  
| Box 17 | - Malaya.  

Finding Aid for the Joseph E. Spencer Papers, 1924-1985
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 17</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>- India.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 17</td>
<td>- Pakistan.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 17</td>
<td>- Ceylon.</td>
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**Cultural and Economic Geography (5 x 8 Note Cards), 1940s-1970s**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 13</th>
<th>- Notes on Abacá.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 13</td>
<td>- Notes on charcoal and also on rare metals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 13</td>
<td>- Purely regional notes, including the U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 13</td>
<td>- Old notes on cultural subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 13</td>
<td>- Rice project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 14</td>
<td>Preprints, reprints, offprints, and technical reports received, 1933-1983.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boxes 15-16,</td>
<td>Photocopied articles on cultural geography and land tenure; collected for class use or research [?], n.d.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-25</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Illustrations (5) of junks of central China, n.d.**

Physical Description: Matted.