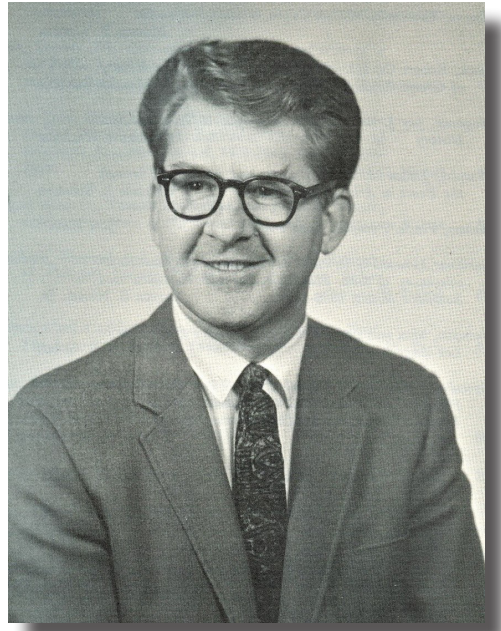


Clark C. Spence (1923-)

Clark C. Spence served as the eighth president of the Western History Association, his term of office was from 1969 to 1970. A specialist in the Trans-Mississippi West, the History of Mining, and the History of Agriculture, he is an emeritus professor at the University of Illinois.

Born in Great Falls, Montana and raised in southern Idaho, Professor Spence's undergraduate career was interrupted by a stint in the Army Air Corps during World War II. After discharge, he completed his B.A. at the University of Colorado in 1948 and remained in Boulder to earn his M.A. in 1951. He moved on to the University of Minnesota where he was awarded the Ph.D. in history in 1955. Before accepting a position in Urbana, he taught at Carleton College, entered the professoriate at Penn State University, and lectured at the University of California, Berkeley. He started at Illinois as an Associate in 1961 and was promoted to full Professor in 1964. Spence chaired the department for a time and retired from teaching in 1990.



Dr. Spence's first book, *British Investments and the American Mining Frontier, 1860-1901*, was published in 1958, partly as the result of his research as a Fulbright Scholar in Great Britain. His thirteenth, *For Wood River or Bust: Idaho's Silver Boom of the 1880s*, was released in 1999. The monographs and articles in between largely focused on the economic and political engines of the mining and agriculture industries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He also has a special affinity for his home region, and his writings about it include a 1978 monograph entitled *Montana: A Bicentennial History*.

In addition to the Fulbright, Spence earned the Agricultural History Society book award in 1959, was awarded a Ford Faculty fellowship in 1963, and he was named a Guggenheim fellow in 1969. The Clark Spence Award is part of his legacy. It was created by the Mining History Association in honor of his high academic standards. This award is presented every two years for the book in mining history that best champions the research, interpretation, and writing skills practiced by Professor Spence, the scholar his peers call the "dean" of mining history.

Source:

"Clark C(hristian) Spence." Contemporary Authors Online (Detroit: Gale, 2001), Gale Biography in Context, http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/bic1/ReferenceDetailsPage/ReferenceDetailsWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&disableHighlighting=false&prodId=BIC1&action=e&windowstate=normal&catId=&documentId=GALE%7CH1000093654&mode=view&userGroupName=spok_33383&jsid=de24729252865aa7b18e12f72eee921e; Directory of American Scholars, 2002, <http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/bic1/ReferenceDetailsPage/ReferenceDetailsWindow?displayGroupName=Reference&disableHighlighting=false&prodId=BIC1&action=e&windowstate=normal&catId=&documentId=GALE%7CK1612545656&mode=view>; Mining History Association Awards, <http://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/awards.htm>.

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