

Biographical Information
LYMAN SPITZER, Jr.
Professor of Astronomy
Director of the Observatory
Princeton University

Dr. Lyman Spitzer, Jr., an authority in the field of theoretical astrophysics and the author of numerous scientific papers, has been chairman of the Department of Astronomy at Princeton University and Director of the Observatory since he joined the faculty in the fall of 1947 with the rank of professor. He has been associated with the Matterhorn Project since 1951, and is now Director.

A native of Toledo, Ohio, Dr. Spitzer received his B. A. degree from Yale University in 1935, and both his M.A. degree in 1937 and his Ph.D. the following year from Princeton. He continued graduate work in physics and astrophysics at Cambridge University, England, in 1935-36 on a Henry Fellowship and in stellar atmospheres at Harvard University under a National Research Fellowship in 1938-39.

In the spring of 1952 he was elected to the distinguished membership of the National Academy of Sciences and was appointed to the Charles A. Young Professorship of Astronomy on the Class of 1897 Foundation.

Prior to his appointment to the Princeton faculty he was an instructor in physics and astronomy at Yale from 1939-42 and an associate professor there from 1945-47. During World War II he served as a scientist in the Special Studies Group, Columbia University Division of War Research from 1943-44, and for the next two years as Director, Sonar Analysis Group, working with the Bureau of Ships, U. S. Navy

Dr. Spitzer is the editor of "Physics of Sound in the Sea", a publication of the National Defense Research Committee. He is the author of papers published in the Astrophysical Journal, Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, and Physical Review, on stellar atmospheres, the origin of the solar system, interstellar matter, origin of stars, pressure broadening of spectral lines, and other subjects.

He is a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma XI, the American Astronomical Society, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific, the Royal Astronomical Society (London), American Physical Society, American Association of University Professors, the Geophysical Union.

Dr. Spitzer was born June 26, 1914, in Toledo, the son of Lyman Spitzer, Sr., a manufacturer, and Mrs. Spitzer. He has a brother John B. Spitzer, a lawyer in Toledo, and two sisters, Mrs. Luebte S. Close of Dublin, N. H., and Mrs. Lydia S. Rheinfrank of Rossford, Ohio.

His wife is the former Doreen D. Canaday of Toledo. They have four children, Nicholas C., Dionis C., Sarah Lutetia and Lydia S.