

Appointments as Professors at La Jolla campus accepted by Mayers

February 1, 1960

The famous husband-and-wife scientific team of Maria and Joseph Mayer have accepted appointments as professors at the La Jolla campus of the University of California, University President Clark Kerr and Roger Revelle, Director at La Jolla, announced today.

Dr. Maria Mayer will be a professor of physics, Dr. Joseph Mayer a professor of chemistry. They come to the School of Science and Engineering at La Jolla from the University of Chicago. They will arrive in La Jolla for the beginning of the Fall 1960 semester.

Dr. Maria Mayer, 54, is a theoretical physicist of world-wide renown. Born in Germany, she received her Ph.D. at Gottingen under Professor Max Born. She and Dr. Joseph Mayer were married in 1930. They have two children.

Dr. Maria Mayer has made important contributions to the fields of quantum electrodynamics, spectroscopy, statistical mechanics, crystal physics and especially to nuclear physics. According to some physicists, her "shell model" interpretation in nuclear physics is the greatest single piece of progress in theoretical physics accomplished since World War II.

Dr. Joseph Mayer was born in New York; he received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1927. He has held appointments at Gottingen, The Johns Hopkins University, and Columbia. He and his wife are co-authors of one of the most important books in the field of statistical mechanics. His principal research interests have been in quantum mechanics and statistical mechanics applied to chemical systems.

Both of the Mayers are members of the National Academy of Sciences, the nation's foremost scientific body.