

# Biographical Encyclopedia of Astronomers

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Barbier, Daniel

Born Lyon, France, 10 December 1907

Died Marseilles, France, 1 April 1965

French observational astronomer Daniel Barbier made his most significant contributions to the study of the background light of the night sky. His student, G. Weill, also worked in this area. Along with Daniel Chalonge, Barbier set up the first quantitative, three-dimensional system of photometric classification of stars (further described in the article on Chalonge). He was the theoretician of the pair, responsible for a textbook on stellar atmospheres and for the definition of the parameter in the classification system that describes the chemical composition of stars. After World War II, Barbier turned his attention to the night skylight, especially the 6,300 Å forbidden line of neutral oxygen and the variations in its intensity and the altitude of the level in the atmosphere (the F layer of the ionosphere) where it is emitted. He died just at the end of an observing run at the Observatoire de Haute-Provence

*Roger Cayrel*

## Selected Reference

Barbier, Daniel (1952). *Les atmosphères stellaires*. Paris: Flammarion