

Christopher Perret was born June 26, 1930 at Neuilly-sur-Seine, France (8AM Paris local time), the son of Rene Perret, better known internationally as a painter and teacher of art under his adopted name of Etienne Ret and his wife, Frances, nee Roach, a native-born citizen of the United States, of a family established in Maryland since the 17th century. No doubt, Christopher's dual French and American inheritance was a formative influence in his life and thought.

Christopher was first schooled in French and English schools but received his secondary education in the United States in the 40s due to the 2nd World War — he attended Solebury in New Hope Pa. and was graduated with honors at 16 from Sanford Prep., Wilmington, Del. (1947). For a while he served as a Merchant Seaman in the Caribbean. Subsequently he travelled to Europe where he joined the U.S. Army and served in Germany and Austria. Afterwards, because of his dual nationality, he did a stint in the French Army in Paris. In the early 50s he enrolled for a year and did college work at the Institut des Sciences Politiques of the Paris University.

Christopher Perret has two sons, Jason (1956) and Jonathan Perret (1957) by his marriage to Juditte (nee Sarkany) Perret.

Though a frame maker and finisher by profession, and though very gifted in painting as well as writing, Christopher's main focus was on poetry from a very early age. Though without formal college or workshop training in writing, he was always an avid reader of the classics and keenly aware of all that was current and topical in the literary world of English and French letters. His writings and illustrations have appeared in Botteghe Oscure (Italy), El Corno Emplumado (Mexico), Poesie Vivante (Geneva), Poetry (Chicago), Contact and The Wormwood Review, among others. In 1961, he staged the one man show of his paintings (Petria Art Shop, N.Y.). He is the author of two volumes of poetry: Blood and Other Poems (Outposts Publications, England, 1963) and his Memoirs of a Parasite (Hors Commerce Press, Calif., 1965). The publication of his collected writings and drawings is planned.

Christopher died unexpectedly from a heart attack the morning of Dec. 6, 1965 (9 AM local time) at Deya, Mallorca, Spain where he was working on his first full-length novel, Momus, and on translations of the modern French surrealist poets for a New Directions anthology under the sponsorship of Ferlinghetti of City Lights Books. Christopher's death, untimely as it was, came as a shock to all who knew him and recognized him as a promising young voice in 20th Century American letters. He was buried in the cemetery of Deya by his mother and father. He is survived by both his parents, a twin brother (Alain), and his wife and two sons.

-- Alain Perret