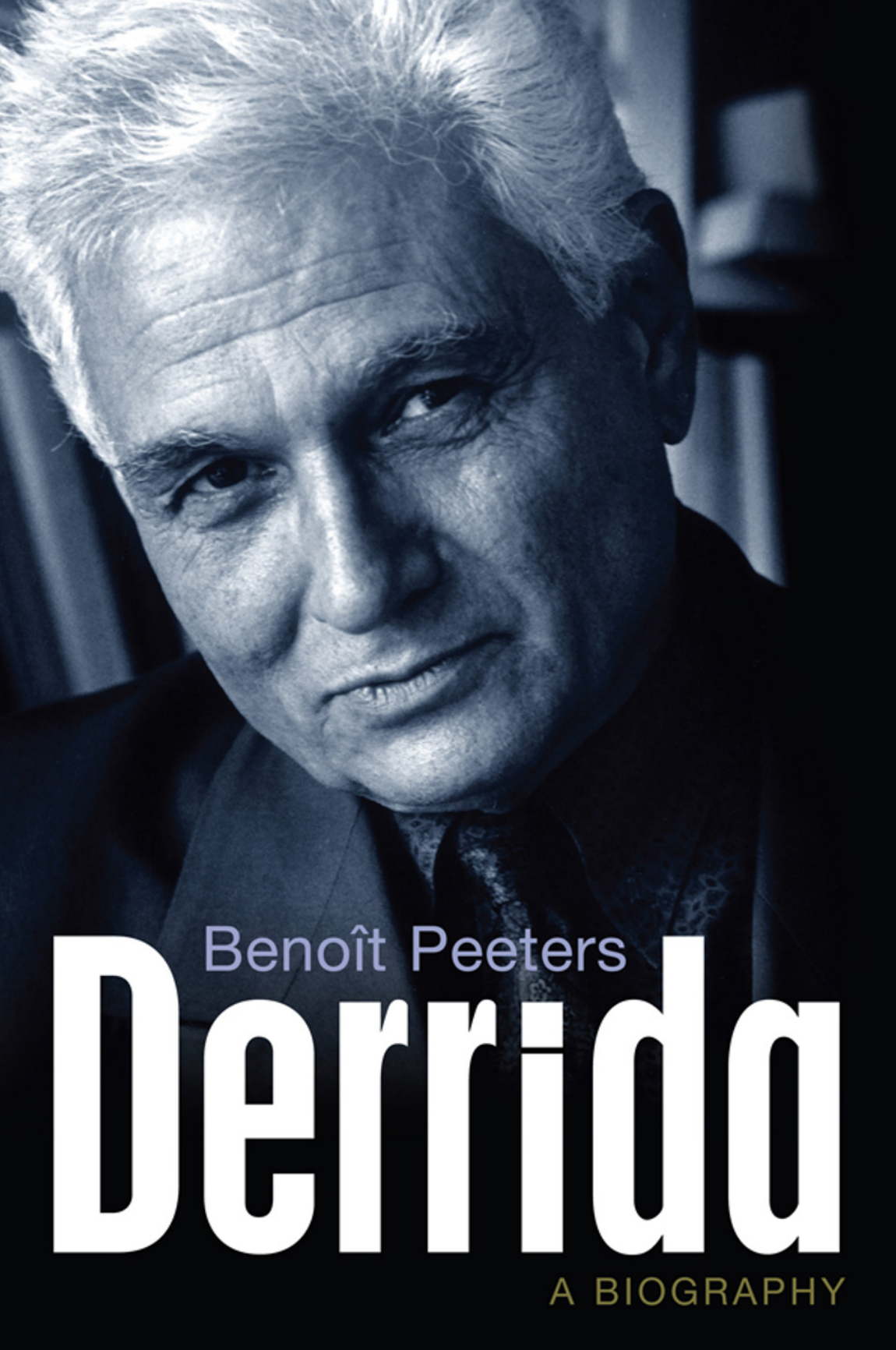




Benoît Peeters

Derrida

A BIOGRAPHY

Derrida

Derrida

A Biography

Benoît Peeters

Translated by
Andrew Brown

polity

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No one will ever know the secret from which I write and the fact that I say it changes nothing.

Jacques Derrida, 'Circumfession'



Algiers, early twentieth century.
(Derrida: personal collection)



Jackie Derrida, aged two.
(Derrida: personal collection)

Sitting on the car with his father,
his mother, and his brother René.
(Derrida: personal collection)



Family group: Jackie is in the
middle, on his mother's knees.
(Derrida: personal collection)



At the primary school in El Biar, 1939. Jackie is in the second row (second from right).
(Derrida: personal collection)



At the Lycée Ben Aknoun in 1946 (third row, third from left). In the second row, the blurred face is that of Jackie's friend Fernand Acharrok.
(Derrida: personal collection)



In El Biar with his friends in the football club (Jackie is in the second row, smiling).

(Derrida: personal collection)



With his mother, summer 1950.

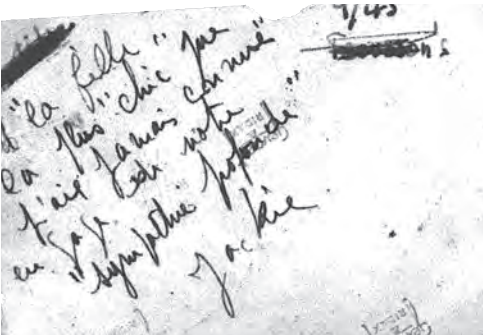
(Derrida: personal collection)



In an Algiers street, shortly before his departure for Paris.
(Derrida: personal collection)



At the wheel of his father's car.
(Derrida: personal collection)



Jackie at fifteen. The photo is dedicated to one of his girlfriends.
(Derrida: personal collection)

At the Lycée Louis-le-Grand, first year of *khâgne* (1949–50), wearing the grey boarders' overcoat.
(Derrida: personal collection)



The three boys from Algiers in *khâgne*. From left to right: Derrida, Jean Claude Pariente, and Jean Domerc.
(Derrida: personal collection)



1950–1, second year of *khâgne*. Jackie is in the third row, third from right. On his right, his friend Michel Monory. The teacher is Roger Pons.

(Derrida: personal collection)



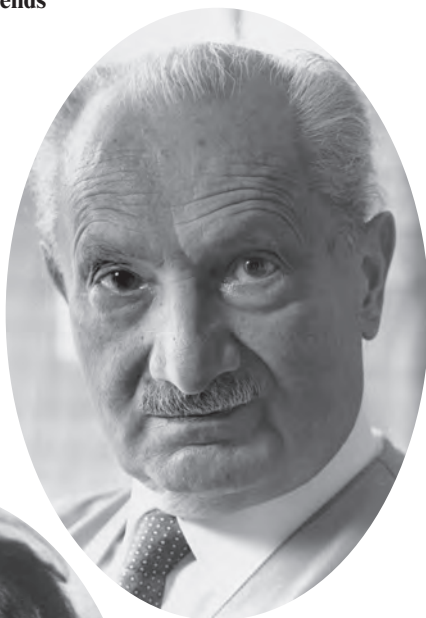
1951–2, third year in *khâgne*. Jackie is in the front row, fourth from left.

(Derrida: personal collection)

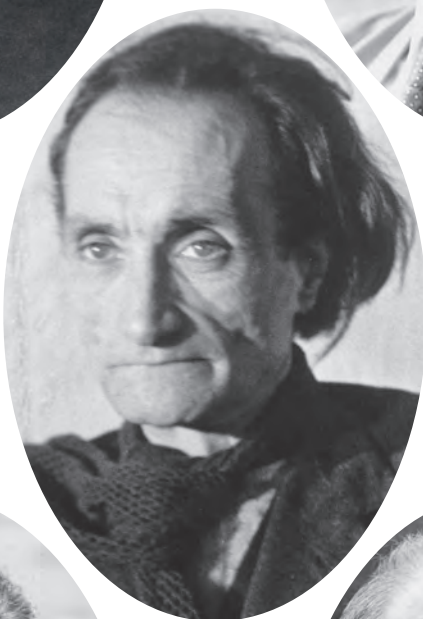
Masters and friends



Edmund Husserl c. 1920.
(© La Collection/Imagno)



Martin Heidegger
in 1960.
(© Ullstein Bild/Roger-Viollet)



Antonin Artaud in 1947.
(© Ministère de la Culture/
Médiathèque de l'architecture et
du patrimoine, Dist. RMN-Denise
Colomb)

Jacques Lacan in 1967.
(© Botti/Stills/Gamma)



Jean Genet in 1956.
(© Édouard Boubat/Rapho)



Paul Celan.

(© Photo Gisèle Celan-Lestrangle/
Fonds Paul Celan/Archives IMEC)



Michel Foucault.

(© Bettmann/CORBIS)

Philippe Sollers
in the early 1960s.

(© AFP)



Emmanuel Levinas
in 1988.

(© Ulf Andersen/Gamma)



Paul Ricoeur in 1970.

(© Yves Leroux/Gamma)



At the corner of
the Boul'Mich
and the rue
Soufflot, the
favourite cafés
of Derrida and
his friends in the
early 1950s.
(Private collection)



The École Normale Supérieure in
the rue d'Ulm (© Jean-Philippe
Charbonnier/Rapho) at the period
when Louis Althusser (above) was
teaching there.

(© Fonds Louis Althusser/Archives IMEC)



Jacques Derrida, c. 1960,
in Prague, in Marguerite's
family.

(Derrida: personal collection)



On the ship *Le Liberté* taking Jacques to the United States for the first time with Marguerite, in 1956.
(Derrida: personal collection)

With his sons, Pierre, born
in 1963 (right), and Jean,
born in 1967 (below).
(Derrida: personal collection)



On *Le France* in September
1971 with his niece
Martine Meskel.
(Derrida: personal collection)

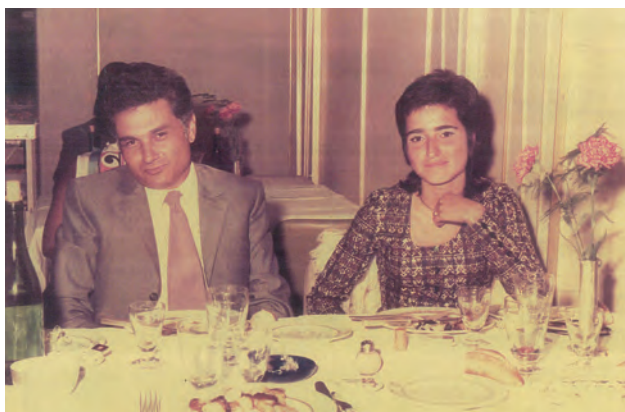




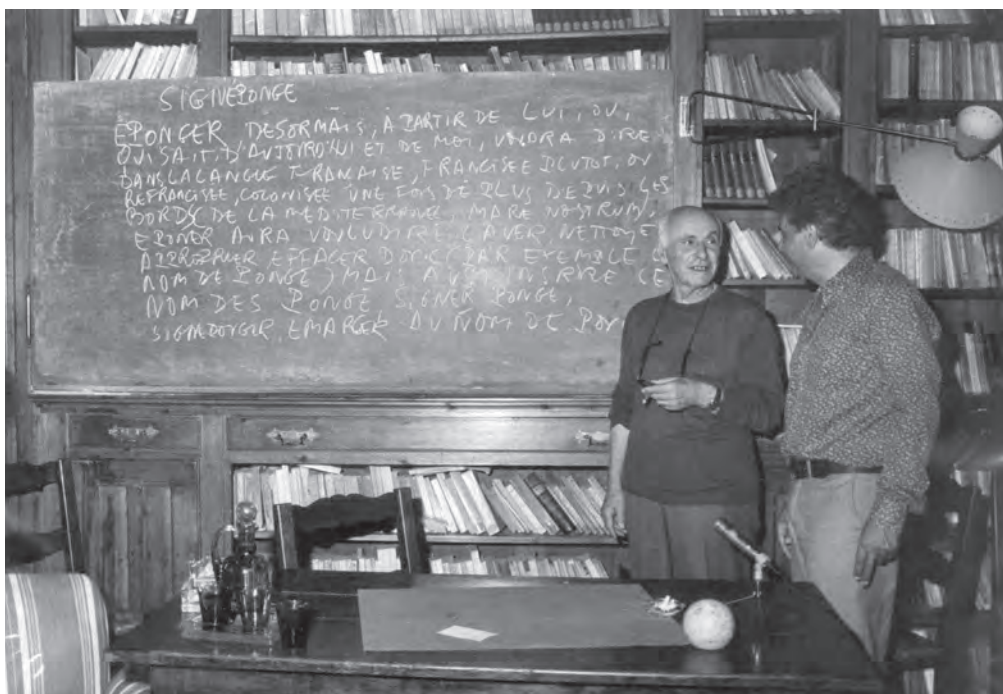
Tableau vivant of the painting *The Massacre of the Innocents*, c. 1975, in the house of the Adamis in Arona. In the foreground, Jean, Marguerite, and Jacques Derrida. On the right, Camilla Adami; in the background, Valerio Adami.

(Derrida: personal collection)



Cerisy-la-Salle: the Nietzsche conference in 1972. From left to right: Gilles Deleuze, Jean-François Lyotard, Maurice de Gandillac, Pierre Klossowski, Jacques Derrida, and Bernard Pautrat.

(© Archives de Pontigny-Cerisy)



Cerisy-la-Salle, 1975, with Francis Ponge.

(© Archives de Pontigny-Cerisy)



The sisters Sylviane (on the left) and
Sophie Agacinski, Paris, July 1966.

(© Rue des Archives/AGIP)



Photo booth, 1970s.
(Derrida: personal collection)

l'Esprit, hélas. qui tri - Ovi, "I have lost
 de même fonction que un" ~~et~~ et je l'ai ha. le que
 hon, mais si (e n') voit pas, ce n'est pas
 seulement que je suspecte la nature des hommes
 ou de tel ou tel peuple - C'est plutôt que le
 l'homme lui-même, le porteur de ce ^{je} "Je parle le
 même langage que toi", "dis" "l'homme
 suprême est un que le peuple est son homme", et
 "l'homme", nous parlons "tout simplement... Et
 comme ali s'exprime que le monde que je suis
 "sorte d'Egypte", l'homme que je suis
 peut-être nous fait que toi. Je n'ai
 doutais avant ton retour de moi - C'est
 peut-être (je le sais) jamais m'imaginer que
 je suis trop petit pour être petit - Comme le
 l'homme dans le fait. que je l'ai peut-être
 un jour. Je suis une sorte de "marque" qui
 n'est même pas fait.
 Meri pour cet autre chisme, mais cher Gervais
 et d'être au fond ni l'un ni l'autre - Alors que l'on
 et toi nos deux embarcations se croisent sur le
 fleuve en s'alignant sur l'autre rive de l'autre côté,
 entre les deux rives, l'embarras et l'embarras
 even au prochain jour, l'autre prochain, et
 Jérusalem ou ailleurs
 (x) Je vous dis
 tout mieux à moi...

P.S. Je t'ai par l. pour, notamment, le meubler vraiment ...
De voir de faire de me me à l'inter. même en un rien ...
J'ai; l'inter. de l'inter. dans un fait pour un ...
J'ai; l'inter. de l'inter. dans un fait pour un ...

Letter from Jacques Derrida to Gérard Granel, sent from Nice, 29 December 1989. Most of Derrida's correspondents found his handwriting extremely difficult to decipher.

(Derrida: personal collection)



In June 1979, at the Estates General of Philosophy held in the main '*amphi*' (*amphithéâtre* or lecture hall) of the Sorbonne (© Marc Fontanel/Gamma), there was a brief altercation between Jacques Derrida and Bernard-Henri Lévy.

(© Marc Fontanel/Gamma)





With Paul de Man, in the United States, towards the end of the 1970s.
(Derrida: personal collection)