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AUGUST 5

**Well-known Greek poet, Vrettakos, dies at 79.**

Two days later—remote on the Outer Banks—this news reaches me. And although I've never heard of him, **...one of Greece's best-known poets and the first leftist member of the Athens Academy of Arts and Sciences...** I tear his notice out and will carry it among my books and papers—a perfect translation from death to English: **Niki Vrettakos began writing poetry when he was 9...died on the way to the hospital.**

Isn't this a secret desire, someone you've never heard of clips your obit out of the paper: **Unknown American poet dies...** and looks you up among the undecipherable? **...began writing poetry before born and died on the way to the hospital.** Only a small secret desire, given such scant write-up in an obscure section of the paper in a town you've driven an entire night and half-day to get to alone, quiet, never heard from...