

PSYCHOSCOPIC EXPERIMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE

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Since ancient times, "sensitives" have been consulted by those who have lost property and by agents of the law in search of solutions to crime. Reports indicate that results were sometimes strikingly favorable.

In the Netherlands the police, under certain circumstances, call on sensitives for help. The aid of a sensitive, Mr. Croiset, has often been asked since 1946. I have numerous reports of these experiments upon behalf of the law, since a majority of the sittings took place under my guidance. Instances in which Mr. Croiset has been successful include:

1. *Tracing of missing objects.* For example, in the District Court at Leeuwarden a portfolio of documents was unaccountably missing. Mr. Croiset, upon being asked for help, told the Court's President exactly where the papers would be found two floors above, and described both the papers and the spot.

2. *Tracing missing persons still alive.* Mr. Croiset is a man of feeling and those who ask about a missing child or adult seldom appeal in vain. There have been many striking successes. Often he gets "impressions" during the first queries over the phone, when there are no extraneous influences.

3. *Information about lost persons who are dead.* Even where missing persons are, unknown to the inquirers, already dead, Mr. Croiset often obtains "impressions" including events related to the death. He has described places and conditions surrounding the bodies, all confirmed by later evidence.

Sometimes, however, one or two details extraneous to the scene will be included in his "impressions"—which can be traced to possible ideas in the minds of those who have first called on him to help and are thus a part of the parapsychologic *res gestae*.

4. *Information given about crimes.* For example, on Nov. 10, 1952, I showed Mr. Croiset a photo of a man. I did not tell him the man was suspected of fraud and coffee-smuggling. He stated ten separate, definite facts about this man, mentioning two associates in two other cities. He identified coffee smuggling and indicated other smuggling not at the time known to me or the police, but later verified. He identified a photo of one accomplice, and told where he lived. The only statement not subsequently confirmed, but not disproved, was a description of a certain hiding-place of the smugglers which he described minutely but could not locate.

There have also been numerous cases in which Mr. Croiset has not been successful so far as the police are concerned, yet in which his impressions are of intense interest to the parapsychologist. In such cases, some of the sensitive's impressions can be traced to their sources and verified as truly received from other minds thinking about the same problem, but themselves in error as to the facts. So that what is a failure so far as the police are concerned may be a parapsychologic success. In other cases, Mr. Croiset has "seen" in a fragmentary vision certain happenings which, while true in themselves, and later verified, have led him to erroneous conclusions as to their meaning or results.

Yet in such cases demonstration of retrocognition is clear. Sometimes existence of extraneous influences has clouded the pictures he receives. Sometimes fatigue interferes. Sometimes positive declarations by those presumed to be in a position to know that this or that could not be true breaks off reception of his impressions. Sometimes his own emotional unwillingness to believe that tragedy has struck blocks his willingness to receive such distasteful impressions.

Yet it is clear that Mr. Croiset has been of immense assistance to the law. And even in cases where the police have not been aided, there have been verifiable evidences of the existence of parapsychological phenomena.