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HEADLINE: Gerard Croiset, 71, Dies; Psychic in Netherlands

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: UTRECHT, the Netherlands, July 21

BODY:

Gerard Croiset, a Dutch psychic who frequently used his extrasensory abilities to find lost, strayed and abducted people, died yesterday, Utrecht officials said. He was 71 years old.

Mr. Croiset became ill at his home this morning in nearby Houten and was taken to the Sint Anthonis Hospital where he died a short time later, the officials reported. The cause of death was not given. They said his body will be cremated Thursday in Utrecht.

Mr. Croiset was called on by Dutch police a number of times to help locate missing persons and he was credited by Japanese authorities with finding the body of a murder victim. In 1964, he assisted the Westchester County Sheriff's office in a renewed search for Judge Joseph Force Crater after officials became impressed with Mr. Croiset's suggestions on where the jurist's body might be found. Judge Crater disappeared in 1930.

Parapsychologists at universities in several countries, including the Soviet Union and Japan, studied Croiset's ability to perceive events beyond the reach of his immediate senses.

Parapsychology is the branch of psychology that investigates psychic phenomena, such as telepathy, extrasensory perception and clairvoyance.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH