Why did the shop assistant refuse to serve Dickie?

True eccentrics never deliberately set out to draw attention to themselves.

They disregard social conventions without being conscious that they are doing anything extraordinary.

This invariably wins them the love and respect of others, for they add colour to the dull routine of everyday life.

Up to the time of his death, Richard Colson was one of the most notable figures in our town.

He was a shrewd and wealthy businessman, but most people in the town hardly knew anything about this side of his life.

He was known to us all as Dickie and his eccentricity had become legendary long before he died.

Dickie disliked snobs intensely.

Though he owned a large car, he hardly ever used it, preferring always to go on foot.

Even when it was raining heavily, he refused to carry an umbrella.

One day, he walked into an expensive shop after having been caught in a particularly heavy shower.

He wanted to buy a £300 watch for his wife, but he was in such a bedraggled condition that an assistant refused to serve him.

Dickie left the shop without a word and returned carrying a large cloth bag.

As it was extremely heavy, he dumped it on the counter.

The assistant asked him to leave, but Dickie paid no attention to him and requested to see the manager.

Recognizing who the customer was, the manager was most apologetic and reprimanded the assistant severely.

When Dickie was given the watch, he presented the assistant with the cloth bag.

It contained £300 in pennies.

He insisted on the assistant's counting the money before he left—— 30,000 pennies in all!

On another occasion, he invited a number of important critics to see his private collection of modern paintings.

This exhibition received a great deal of attention in the press, for though the pictures were supposed to be the work of famous artists, they had in fact been painted by Dickie.

It took him four years to stage this elaborate joke simply to prove that critics do not always know what they are talking about.

Dickie had been caught in a heavy shower when he walked into an expensive shop.

He wanted a £300 watch for his wife, but he was SO bedraggled the assistant refused to serve him.

He left the shop and returned with a heavy cloth bag, which he dumped on the counter.

Dickie asked for the manager.

When he was given the watch, he gave the assistant the bag, which contained L 300 in pennies, which the assistant had to count.

Mr. Chew is a man who has lived in our small town for years.

He is a large man (some would say 'fat'), he has a round face, a big black moustache, and a bald head.

He always wears the same clothes- black trousers, a white shirt, and a red waistcoat- and is always polite to everyone he meets.

He owns an antiques shop near the river, and he lives 'over the shop'.

No one knows where he gets his things, but there are always lots of different interesting antiques in the shop window every week.

Mr. Chew is interested in politics, too.

Every week, he puts up strange notices in his shop window to passers-by.

Usually, the notices are trying to make people save a local building or stop a plan to build a road through the town.

Every time there is a national election, he automatically stands for parliament and gives speeches almost every day in the town park, saying what he would do if he were Prime Minister. (He usually says he would make sure that antiques dealers did not have to pay Income Tax and that no cars should be allowed into our little town at all.) Every year, he gets a few votes, but not enough to worry the serious candidates.

For most people, Mr. Chew is a harmless eccentric, and everyone likes talking to him.

After all, he is someone who adds colour to the dull routine of their daily lives.

I walked there instead of going by bus.

Apart from cleaning the windows, he hasn't done much all day.

I'm not really interested in fishing.

He walked into the hotel through the front door and went out of the hotel by the back door.

He went into the restaurant at 6.00 and stayed in the restaurant till midnight!

Please pay attention to your teacher.

I don't care what she does!

Can you please take care of the apartment while we're away?

I don't know who he's talking about.

Ask him why he has never left England.

She asked if I could phone her.

Would you mind my opening the window?

Imagine her wearing a dress like that!

At the beginning, the team did very well, but in the end, they lost the match.

He always owes money to people: he's always in debt.

They never went far out to sea: land was always in sight.

I gave her the bad news as gently as I could, but she was in tears when I left.

Most people in the town would have regarded Dickie's behaviour as eccentric on the day he visited the shop because he went to such lengths to show his dislike of snobbery.

When Dickie went into an expensive shop he did not look like a man who could afford a watch.

The press paid a great deal of attention to Dickie's exhibition because it became known that Dickie had succeeded in deceiving the critics.

They disregard social conventions and are quite unaware of the fact that they are doing anything extraordinary.

As it weighed a lot, he dumped it on the counter.

There were £300 worth of pennies in the bag.

He insisted that the assistant should count the money before he left.

The pictures were supposed to have been done by famous artists.

Critics do not always talk sense.