What was the 'happy discovery'?

Antique shops exert a peculiar fascination on a great many people.

The more expensive kind of antique shop, where rare objects are beautifully displayed in glass cases to keep them free from dust, is usually a forbidding place.

But no one has to muster up the courage to enter a less pretentious antique shop.

There is always hope that in its labyrinth of musty, dark, disordered rooms, a real rarity will be found amongst the piles of assorted junk that litter the floors.

No one discovers a rarity by chance.

A truly dedicated bargain hunter must have patience, and above all, the ability to recognize the worth of something when he sees it.

To do this, he must be at least as knowledgeable as the dealer.

Like a scientist bent on making a discovery, he must cherish the hope that one day he will be amply rewarded.

My old friend, Frank Halliday, is just such a person.

He has often described to me how he picked up a masterpiece for a mere £50.

One Saturday morning, Frank visited an antique shop in my neighbourhood.

As he had never been there before, he found a great deal to.

interest him.

The morning passed rapidly and Frank was about to leave when he noticed a large packing case lying on the floor.

The dealer told him that it had just come in, but that he could not be bothered to open it.

Frank begged him to do so and the dealer reluctantly praised it open.

The contents were disappointing.

Apart from an interesting-looking carved dagger, the box was full of crockery, much of it broken.

Frank gently lifted the crockery out of the box and suddenly noticed a miniature painting at the bottom of the packing case.

As its composition and line reminded him of an Italian painting he knew well, he decided to buy it.

Glancing at it briefly, the dealer told him that it was worth £50 .

Frank could hardly conceal his excitement, for he knew that he had made a real discovery.

The tiny painting proved to be an unknown masterpiece by Correggio and was worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

While visiting an antique shop one Saturday, Frank was about to leave when he saw a large packing case.

He asked the dealer to open it, but the contents were disappointing until he lifted some crockery and noticed a miniature painting at the bottom.

He had already decided to buy it when the dealer told him it was £50.

Frank was excited because this was a real discovery.

The painting was an unknown masterpiece worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

'The Antique Shop' has been in the little street near the church for years.

As you look at it from across the road, it draws you towards it.

It has one large window display designed to attract all sorts of customers.

There is expensive glass, porcelain, and jewelry to attract people with a lot of money.

There is second-hand furniture, modern silver, and other things (hardly antique!) to attract those with not so much.

When you enter the shop, a little bell rings and the owner, a little grey-haired old lady called Mrs. Century, comes out from a room at the back and greets you like a lost relative!

She greets everyone the same and always with a smile.

The shop sells all kinds of antiques.

There are shelves full of old books along the back of the shop.

There are two large tables in the middle of the shop covered with pieces of glass and porcelain.

Then, around the walls on the floor are large pots, brass statues, and things.

There are lots of paintings on the walls, too.

At the weekend, the shop usually has five or six customers in it at one time.

You might find a professional antique collector, a holiday couple, and a young mother looking for a cheap antique for her husband's birthday.

We all like looking for unusual things and hope to find a bargain one day.

You might find one in Mrs. Century's 'Antique Shop'.

I'll phone you the moment he arrives.

I'll wait here until he comes.

I'll speak to you again before you leave.

You must be very tired.

I assume that you are very tired.

Did you notice what she was wearing?

“It's a beautiful day,” he remarked.

When Frank Halliday visited an antique shop in the writer's neighbourhood, he displayed the kind of perseverance needed to find a rarity.

How did Frank come to discover the miniature by Correggio? He persuaded the dealer to open the box in which it happened to be.

Frank decided to buy the miniature because he knew he had made a real discovery.

Rare objects are beautifully displayed in glass cases, which keep them free from dust.

But it is not necessary for anyone to muster up courage to enter an ordinary shop.

This being his first visit there, he found a great deal to interest him.

The dealer told him it would cost him £50.

Frank visited an antique shop near my home.