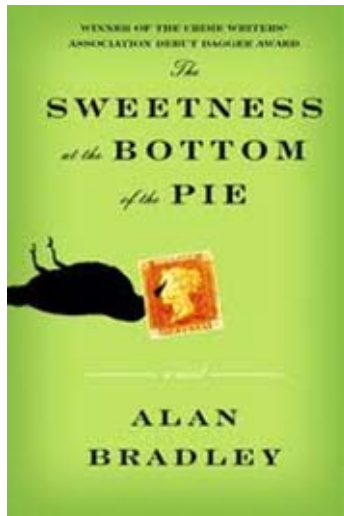


sure everything is dry use the lowest force of suction to remove the mold from the stamp/stamp page. With the dry cloth (or paper towel) method, gently wipe the mildew off the stamp. This is best done in a well-ventilated space or better yet, outside. The dry cloth method can also be used on postcards or album pages to remove visible mold.

After the cleaning, the stamps can be de-smelled by placing the items in a plastic container with a cloth that has been sprayed lightly by a “Fiberez” like substance. Do not let the cloth come in contact with the stamps. After about five minutes, remove the stamps and place in a dry warm area for a couple of hours. This should stop any further deterioration of the stamp or album pages.

In hindsight, it would have been best to keep the stamp collection free from mold/mildew by storing them in a spot in the house that has both air conditioned and heating with a relative humidity level of 35 to 50%. The ideal room temperature is from the mid to upper 60's (just below average 68° room temperature). It is also important that the space has some air circulation for maintaining the collection in its the best condition — make sure whoever is going to get your collection knows these simple procedures so they will not have to give away an old musty collection.

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**Book review by Bill Schultz** — Hey there, LCPS members, any stamp collecting detective story fans out there? If so you might enjoy a ‘baking together’ of the two genres served up by a talented chef in *“The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie”* by Alan Bradley.

The setting for this story is Buckshaw, a palatial but decaying estate which is the home of Colonel de Luce and his family over in merry old England. The clear heroine of the tale is the Colonel’s eleven year old daughter Flavia, a precocious (and snooty) young person with a special flair for chemistry and poisons. Wait; don’t give up on our story yet. It’s just beginning.

Flavia is forced to forsake her chemistry lab during our tale, in order to solve the murder of a mysterious stranger in the cucumber patch at Buckshaw. It seems the murder is related to separate thefts of the only two specimens known of the ‘Ulster Avenger’, a fictional orange version of the legendary Penney Black, the first prepaid postage stamp. The first theft occurred when the Colonel, a devoted philatelist and Flavia’s father, was still in school. The stamp’s disappearance from the collection of the school Headmaster had lead to his assistant’s death, when he leapt from the school roof in despair

soon afterward. The remaining Ulster Avenger had been stolen from the royal collection shortly before the murder. Unfortunately the police feel this web of events involves the Colonel just a few too many times, especially since the latest murder occurred at Buckshaw, and they arrest him for the crime. It is up to Flavia to sort out what the real connection is between the two legendary stamp thefts and the deaths, clear her father’s name, and recover the royal Avenger (much to the joy of King George).



This is an easy, fascinating read for anyone with a true crime-stamp double interest. It was a winner of the ‘**Debut Dagger Award**’ from the Crime Writers’ Association, and is available in large type (for weak eyes) from the Grayslake Library. If you are ready for a ‘**Penny Orange**’ this could be for you.



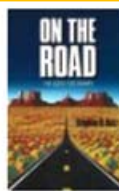
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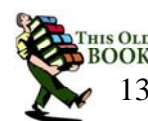
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If you are interested in other books both about stamps, collecting, and fiction here are some available from AMAZON.COM.

We also have a used book store in downtown Grayslake that has been known to have stamp related materials located at:



138 Center Street, Grayslake, IL