




THE COLOR OF DUST: AND OTHER DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS FROM OUR NATION S ATTIC (HARDBACK)

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Dog Ear Publishing, United States, 2011. Hardback. Book Condition: New. 231 x 157 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Octogenarians, such as myself enjoy thinking about those adventures in a long life that continue to energize our memory banks The stories collected in this book are true and illustrate a time when museums were less bureaucratic and more idiosyncratic than most of them are today. But idiosyncrasy was exactly the circumstance of the Nation s Attic when I joined that community of scholars and researchers back in the mid twentieth century. These stories recount some marvelously eccentric professional behavior and collections equally eccentric which include wonders such as mermaids, simian astronauts, flesh eating beetles, and a silk purse made from a sow s ear. These people and their exotic behavior were observed daily by a new employee who thought that an institution as famous the Smithsonian would be a citadel of decorum and elegance. Not so and happily not so for my adventures among the museum s colorful inhabitants made the business of collecting history absolutely fascinating. Benjamin Lawless graduated from the University of Illinois as an accomplished portrait painter who discovered early on that his skills in capturing a human likeness were not nearly as useful as those of capturing the history of America through museum exhibitions. His fortunate encounter with one of America s great museums, the Smithsonian Institution, resulted in a lifetime of employment among interesting people and world class collections that entertained the author so much that after his retirement the memory of it resulted in this book. When not writing or sketching exhibition ideas for history and science museums around the country, the author sits in a house that he hammered together on the banks of the Potomac River outside...

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