

gie, and with his art. Reviewers admired Potok's poetic style and storytelling ability.

Andrew Potok told *CA*: "I began to write in 1976 only because I became blind and had to stop painting. Some of my subject matter deals with this. I came to the U.S. as a refugee from the Germans and Poles, and some of my subject matter reflects this."

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:

BOOKS

Potok, Andrew, *Ordinary Daylight: Portrait of an Artist Going Blind*, Holt, 1980.

PERIODICALS

- Chicago Tribune*, May 4, 1980, section 7, p. 3.
- New York Times*, April 18, 1980.
- New York Times Book Review*, May 11, 1980, p. 12.
- Washington Post*, July 7, 1980, p. D2.

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POWER, Brian 1918-

PERSONAL: Born July 23, 1918, in Tientsin, China; son of Stephen (a customs officer) and Grace (a piano teacher; maiden name, d'Arc) Power; married Prunella Stack (a writer). **Education:** Attended St. Louis College, Tientsin, China, 1925-30, and King's College, London, England, 1936-39. **Religion:** Roman Catholic.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—14 Gertrude St., London SW10, England. *Agent*—Toby Eadie, 18 Park Walk, London SW10, England. 4421-71 351 33893

CAREER: Middle Temple, London, England, barrister at law, 1951-58; lecturer in advocacy and on Chinese history; free-lance writer, 1970—. **Military service:** British Army, 1939-48; became captain.

MEMBER: Society of Authors.

WRITINGS:

The Ford of Heaven: The Remarkable Memoir of a Youth in China (autobiography; also see below), P. Owen, 1984.

The Puppet Emperor: The Life of Pu Yi, Last Emperor of China, P. Owen, 1986.

Peasant Wisdom: In Europe and in China, Brian Power, 1989.

The Ford of Heaven is excerpted in *The Oxford Book of Death*, edited by D. J. Enright, Oxford University Press, 1983.

WORK IN PROGRESS: A sequel to *The Ford of Heaven* written as a novel.

SIDELIGHTS: Brian Power documents the erratic life of Henry Pu Yi, the last emperor of the Manchu dynasty, in *The Puppet Emperor: The Life of Pu Yi, Last Emperor of China*. Written as a novelized account of the title character's life—reminiscent of the Chinese storytellers the author encountered as a youth in Tientsin—the book chronicles Pu Yi's career beginning with his ascension to the throne in 1908, at the age of two. From there Power follows Pu Yi to his abdication of his title in 1912, to his years of study in Peking, to his crowning as the first emperor of the East Asian state of Manchukuo, and finally to his conviction and later pardon as a war criminal. Told in a "lively manner," according to Malcolm Bosse in the *New York Times Book Review*, *The Puppet Emperor* also discloses Pu Yi's personal characteristics: his steady entourage of eunuchs, his blatant neglect of his first wife—he had five—and his inability to possess any real power during his lifetime.

Power told *CA*: "I am especially interested in peasant wisdom as opposed to knowledge and technological progress. I'm also interested in Taoist philosophy (the way of nature) as opposed to state government."

BIOGRAPHICAL/CRITICAL SOURCES:

PERIODICALS

- New York Times Book Review*, January 27, 1985, p. 23; February 28, 1988, p. 22.
- Times Literary Supplement*, January 9, 1987, p. 30.

* * *

PRESSER, Stephen B. 1946-

PERSONAL: Born August 10, 1946, in Chattanooga, TN; son of Sidney (a civil engineer) and Estelle (a homemaker; maiden name, Shapiro) Presser; married Carole Smith, June 16, 1968 (divorced June 23, 1987); married Arlynn Leiber (a novelist), December 13, 1987; children: (first marriage) David, Elisabeth; (second marriage) Joseph, Eastman. **Education:** Harvard University, A.B., 1968, J.D., 1971. **Politics:** Republican.

ADDRESSES: *Home*—1015 Cherry St., Winnetka, IL 60093. *Office*—Law School, Northwestern University, 357 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

CAREER: Rutgers University, Camden Campus, Camden, NJ, assistant professor of law, 1974-76; University of Virginia, Charlottesville, visiting associate professor of law, 1976-77; Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, Raoul Berger Professor of Legal History, 1977—. London School of Economics and Political Science, London, academic visitor, 1983-84.

MEMBER: University Club of Chicago.