

Press Release

For Release: Immediately Contact: Raymond Hammond, Editor; 917.843.8825; rhammond@nyquarterly.org

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NYQ Books™ announces the publication of *Marked: Poems of the Holocaust* by Stephen Herz



February 26, 2014 - New York, NY - NYQ Books™ is proud to announce the publication of *Marked: Poems of the Holocaust* by Stephen Herz in both paperback and hardback editions.

In *Marked*, we see through a prism of linked poems the unfolding horror, terror, and despair of this dehumanizing bloody time of cruelty, evil, and death. Here are poems infused with the Third Reich's virulent anti-Semitic slogans, proclamations, and hate-filled speeches calling for the death of the enemy—the Jews. Here is the Yellow Star, marking all Jews for the round-ups, the ghettos, the mass-shootings, and the death trains. From the burning of the books to the burning of the bodies, here is history distilled. One can hear the voices of the bystanders wishing the Jews "good riddance." Voices of *Einsatzgruppen*, the mobile killing squads. Voices from the *Sonderkommandos* in the gas chambers of Auschwitz. Voices crying out for help from an indifferent America, an indifferent world. And, here are the shots shots echoing through the poems, echoing through time. Today, some seventy years after the Holocaust, we still can't understand. But, the author hopes this collection of Holocaust poems will help us to remember, help us to keep the Holocaust alive, to keep it from falling into mythology.

Stephen Herz's poems have been widely published. He's a winner of the New England Poet's Daniel Varoujan Prize. This collection—*Marked*—is the culmination of two chapbooks, a volume of poems—*Whatever You Can Carry*—and many new poems that cover the years of this dark, bloody time of death and destruction and evil we call the Holocaust or Shoah. Several schools and universities have adopted Herz's poems as part of their Holocaust studies curricula. Mr. Herz lives in Westport, CT and New York City.

NYQ Books™ was established in 2009 as an imprint of The New York Quarterly Foundation, Inc. Its mission is to augment the *New York Quarterly* poetry magazine by providing an additional venue for poets who are already published in the magazine.



Photo by Kate Herz