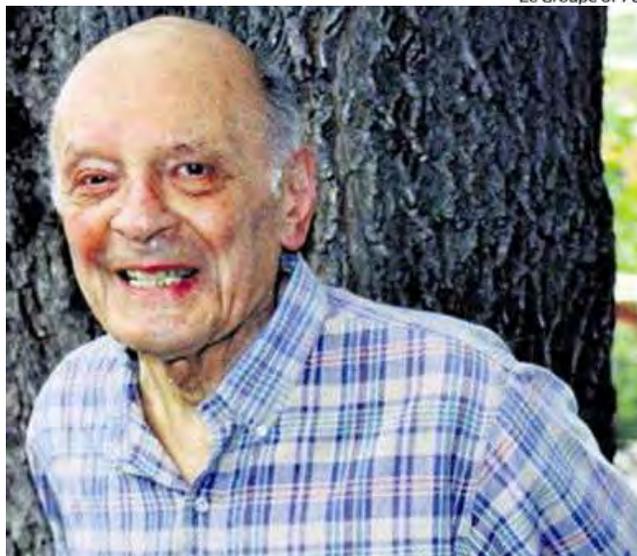


Maynard Gertler 1916 - 2011

Emmanuel Maynard Gertler was a pioneering publisher, a tenacious human rights activist and an avant-garde farmer. He is largely responsible for introducing Québec literature to the English-speaking world and a variety of crops to Canada.

Maynard was born in Montreal in 1916 and was an avid reader from a young age. His Austro-Hungarian parents fled to Canada shortly before the First World War, and his father opened up a furniture store in Montreal, where Maynard worked. Since he was denied access to McGill University because he was Jewish, he opted to study mental and moral philosophy at Queen's University, graduating in 1939. He then enrolled at Columbia University and became a US citizen. When the Second World War began, he was hired as an economist for the US government under both Roosevelt's and Truman's administrations. He was drafted into the army following the Pearl Harbor attack, which became a pivotal moment for him as he realized that free thought is not encouraged in such settings. After the war, he worked as a research director for a documentary film production company, but he decided to immigrate to England due to the rising intolerance to socialist thinking in the US. There, he taught history at Cambridge University and took an interest in certain crops that hadn't yet been commercially produced on Canadian soil.

He moved back to Montreal in 1959 and founded his own publishing house, Harvest House Ltd., which had been described as "a one-man university press". He published translations of French-Canadian books criticizing Duplessis' government and Québec's educational system. This helped increase awareness of Québec's troubled political situation to the outside world. He influenced other publishers to follow suit in translating Québécois literature into English, even if there was little



money in doing so. In 1995, he sold Harvest House to the University of Ottawa Press.

Gertler is also a former Vice-President of PEN Canada, a former president of the Canadian Chapter of Amnesty International, a former director of the Canadian Civil Liberties Union and a former board member of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation. He and his wife Ann were active members of the G78 during all of its early years. In 2002, he became a member of the Order of Canada and received a Queen's Alumni Achievement Award. He died in April 2011 at the age of 94.