This book was written by Noica after his release from political prison, in 1964, but it remained unpublished until 1990. Its chapters were sent to England starting in 1971, as letters addressed by the author to his first wife, Wendy Muston, with the idea that Wendy would translate them and publish them abroad. One version of the manuscript was kept in the author’s archive; this version was at the basis of the edition published by Humanitas in 1990. As will be seen, that version was incomplete.

The present volume contains four new chapters compared to the 1990 and 2008 editions: XIII, which was present in the previous versions in the form of a summary written by the author (we maintained this summary within brackets), XVI, XVII, and XVIII.

These texts were found in the archives of the former Securitate,† and were returned to Mariana Noica, the widow of the author, by Virgil Măgureanu, the chief of the Romanian Intelligence Service, in 1994. Marin Diaconu published them in Viața românească,† year LXXXIX, November–December 1994, nos. 11–12, and we have took them from there. We thank Marin Diaconu for his help and kindness.

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* The secret police during communism.
† Romanian literary journal.