

A NOTE ON FONTS, PSEUDONYMS, AND PRONUNCIATION

This is a polyphonic work, incorporating the voices of Securitate officers and their informers, my field notes and field index written at the time of my various research stays in Romania, letters I wrote home, people I interviewed for this book after 2008, and my ruminations on this material as I read it in the present. To assist the reader, I have reduced the many voices to three different fonts for the main categories of participants:

1. my narrative voice in the present;
2. *letters sent from the field as well as my field index or field notes written at the time of my research trips to Romania, 1973–2016;*
3. **the reports and notes of Securitate officers from the file located in the archive at CNSAS.**

In addition, I adopt the following conventions concerning names. In the files, the names or pseudonyms of the persons being followed, and often of those they interact with, usually appear in quotation marks and often in capital letters (e.g., “VERA,” “VANESSA”), and I will follow that practice. Likewise, officers invariably put the pseudonyms of informers in quotation marks (e.g., “Ovidiu”). This is so even when it is in fact the person’s real name that is used, as sometimes happened. Although officers sometimes also write informers’ names in capitals, I do not do so here. When I have interviewed someone who appears in the file as an informer, in an effort to protect these people I create my own pseudonym rather than using that of the officers. I also use pseudonyms (or in some cases simple initials) for some of my interviewees, indicated by an asterisk before the first use of the name. Names that

do not appear in capitals, with quotation marks, or with an asterisk are the real names of the persons in question (e.g., David Prodan); those still alive have agreed to this. I have not distinguished my own redactions from those of the archive. Finally, when I am reporting a conversation with someone, I often put my own questions in parentheses.

In my translations from the Securitate file, I have attempted to preserve something of the linguistic character of the originals, with formulaic phrases, an eccentric “lofty” style, use of passive constructions, and inversion of names (often using all names rather than just first or last—VERDERY KATHERINE MAUREEN instead of Katherine Verdery). I have also preserved spelling errors. When fidelity to the original creates excessive awkwardness in English—especially in the use of passives and noun clusters—I have preferred clarity. I rarely include underlining that was added by officers other than the one who drew up the document (usually his superior officers or the archivist). Sometimes I provide the notes of the officers, labeled “N.O.” for “Note of the [Case] Officer” and “N.S.” for “Note of the Superior Officer.” Finally, I use the Romanian (European) style for dates (day, month, year) rather than the U.S. style. Hence, September 23, 1979, is 23.09.79. These documents contain many more markings than I have reproduced (registration number of the document, the number of copies, the typist’s initials, etc.). To protect both my own privacy and that of others mentioned in the files, I do not indicate the file numbers in the CNSAS archive from which quotations come, although qualified researchers can discover them.

Except for the vowels *â*, *ă*, and *î*, Romanian is generally pronounced like Italian. Front vowels soften *c* and *g* (to *ç* and *dj*); hard *c* or *g* before front vowels is spelled *ch* or *gh*; *ș* is *sh*, *ț* is *ts*. To make the text more accessible, here are phonetic equivalents of some frequently used personal and place names:

Cluj = KlooZH
 Cugir = Koo JEER
 Geoagiu = jo AH joo
 Hunedoara = hoo neh DWA ra
 Iași = Yahsh
 Moașa = MWA sha
 Moșu = MO shu
 Orăștie = aw rush TEE yeh
 Securitate = seh koo ree TAH tay
 Vlaicu = VLY koo (vly—rhymes with fly)