

**Abstract:** Self-censorship is defined in dictionaries as censoring one's own thoughts, ideas or actions. The idea of this study originated from the observation that we have a vast bibliography about the communist censorship in Romania, but none of the authors wrote about self-censorship, about which, Ion Negoitescu, the literary critic, said that it is "even more dangerous than censorship".

The study's author believes that the easiest way to identify this phenomenon is by reading the volumes of letters published after 1985. The correspondence between two former friends, writers Lucian Boz (settled in Australia) and N. Steinhardt (living in Romania at that time) reveals strong self-censorship, both being aware of the impact that the negative ideas, read by the censors employed by the Securitate (Romanian Secret Police), may have on the life of N. Steinhardt. Rarely, we find some double meaning words, such as the "bitter" coffee that Steinhardt was drinking, the real significance being the harsh life under the communist regime. Quite different is the message of the uncensored letters sent by Steinhardt to Lucian Boz from the Western free world, where he had been invited by a monastery. The same ideas can be found in the exchanges of letters between Emil Cioran, Mircea Eliade, and others.

The author of this research launches an invitation to all the writers and journalists who have published during the communist regime to testify on their fight against censorship and self-censorship, knowing that every author would like to publish his work in his lifetime, not posthumously.

**Keywords:** censorship, self-censorship, communism, correspondence, double-meaning words.