

The Writing of *A Spiritual Adventure*

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Using information from Eliade's unpublished journal manuscript in the University of Chicago Archives, this article traces the inception, and day-to-day creation of the play, revealing how the plot and characters evolved. It discloses the author's judgment of it when it was fully born – and how his views changed later. Thus it lays a foundation on which any interpretation of the play's "meaning" must be based. *[Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: <http://www.transformativestudies.org> ©2012 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]*

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It has been known ever since Eliade published the first volume of his journal excerpts¹ that he had written a play in October-November 1946, called *Aventură spirituală*² (*A Spiritual Adventure*), which had never been published. His Romanian biographer, Mircea Handoca, visited him in Paris in September 1985 and, among other things, inquired concerning the existence of the play. The Professor told him he possessed a copy of it in Chicago and would mail it to him when he returned. Unfortunately, Eliade died a few months later without having sent it. However, in 2008 when the University of Chicago Library issued a "Finding Aid" for the Eliade papers contained among its Special Collections, I was able to locate the play and obtain a copy of the original typescript.³

There are about a dozen references to the play in the "journal fragments" Eliade selected for publication. However, the unabridged journal, also found in the Eliade Special Collection (a manuscript nearly

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