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Atanas Tasev was born in Sofia, Bulgaria, where he studied painting and had his first exhibition at age 23. He continued his education at the Academy in Prague and eventually made his home there for twenty-seven years, painting portraits, landscapes, and city street scenes. In 1946, he left Czechoslovakia for Sweden and came to the United States in 1948.

Tasev continued his portrait work in Washington, D.C., and in New York. Between 1948 and 1958, he frequently visited the National Zoological Park (NZP) in Washington and drew pencil sketches of the animals for relaxation. He was a good friend of William M. Mann, NZP Director from 1925 to 1956, and they often had tea together in Mann's Washington apartment.

These papers consist of three Tasev sketches of NZP animals drawn in 1949, 1952, and 1956. Also included is a 1976 book entitled Washington Zoo, a collection of Tasev's animal sketches.

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:
Subjects:
Art
Artists

Types of Materials:
Books
Drawings

Names:
Mann, William M., 1886-1960
National Zoological Park (U.S.)
Tasev, Atanas
Container Listing

Box 1

Box 1 of 1  Folder 1 "Jungle Cat," 1949
Box 1 of 1  Folder 2 "Lion's Cubs," 1952
Box 1 of 1  Folder 3 "Lion's Cubs," 1956
Box 1 of 1  Folder 4 Washington Zoo by Atanas Tasev, 1976