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## **Ivan But Collection of Sketches and Cartoons**

**Dates:**

[1940s]–[1950s]

**Extent:**

1 box (0.3 meters)

**Biographical sketch:**

Ivan Nicholas But (b. 1884, Warsaw, Russian Empire—d.1960, Vancouver, Canada) was the artist of a series of sketches. The artist and his family, including his wife, Olga Floroff But (1886-1975), daughter, Zoia Zozulina (1909-1963) and her husband, Igor Zozulin (1908-1963) are depicted in some sketches. According to digitized DP registration records accessed via Arolsen Archives, the family were members of the Russian diaspora in Yugoslavia prior to becoming refugees in Germany during the Second World War. At the end of the war, they became 'displaced persons,' refusing to go back to now socialist Yugoslavia. They arrived first in a transit and resettlement center Munich-Freimann DP Center housed in the former barracks (SS-Kaserne) in 1945. They were then transferred to DP camp Schleissheim in Bavaria. They further immigrated to Vancouver, Canada, landing first in Halifax in 1950. Ivan But and family members are buried in the Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver.

**Scope and Content:**

The sketches depict folk costumes from Southeastern Europe (eleven sketches, unsigned and undated), and feature Orthodox Christian iconography (two sketches, unsigned and undated), and decorative patterns and borders (ten sketches, unsigned and undated). The largest part of the collection depicts life in a displaced persons camp (DP camp), likely camp Schleissheim in Germany. There are 52 sketches, 21 contain captions. Some sketches are signed by the author, and most are undated.

This collection also includes four sketchbooks belonging to the artist, containing 73 sketches and studies. Many of these drawings have humorous (often darkly humorous) captions in Russian. The captions where present are translated below. The original punctuation, orthography and capitalizations are maintained. But used characters ъ (the hard sign) and ѣ (ie) which are not used in modern Russian.

This collection represents an artist's vision of everyday life in the camps. The sketches depict recurring themes of overcrowding in the barracks, lack of food provisions, and poor sanitary conditions. Several sketches and studies address a dangerous passage into Germany at the end of the war.

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**Custodial History:**

Olga Floroff But (1886-1975), Ivan But's wife, gifted the collection to the former owner shortly before her death in 1975. The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library acquired the collection from Bjarne Tokerud Bookseller in 2025.

**Language:**

Russian

**Terms of Access:**

Open

**Location:**

Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto

<b>Box:Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Caption (Russian)</b>	<b>Translation</b>
1:1	Croatia (Jamnica)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 17.5 cm x 24.5 cm		
1:2	Granica (Lika, Croatia)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 12 cm x 22.5 cm		
1:3	Hrvatska-Novo Čiče (village in Croatia)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 20 cm x 25 cm		
1:4	Dalmatia (Benkovac-Kotari)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 15.5 cm x 25.5 cm		
1:5	Dalmatia (Imotski, southern Croatia)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the		

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Box:Folder	Title	Description	Caption (Russian)	Translation
		Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 17 cm x 21 cm		
1:6	Dalmatia (Konavle)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 18.5 cm x 20.5 cm		
1:7	Slavonija (Valpovo, Brođanci, Croatian villages)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 12 cm x 18 cm		
1:8	Slawonija winkowice (Vinkovci, Slavonia, Croatia)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 13.5 cm x 22.5 cm		
1:9	Bosnia, Sarajevo	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 13 cm x 23 cm.		
1:10	Herzegovina (Mostar)	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 11.5 cm x 20.5 cm		
1:11	Jesus	Sketch featuring Orthodox Christian iconography. Jesus against draped background. Pencil on paper. 18.5 cm x 22.5 cm		
1:12	Madonna and child	Sketch featuring Orthodox Christian iconography. Madonna and child. Pencil on paper. 26 cm x 20 cm		

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Box:Folder	Title	Description	Caption (Russian)	Translation
1:13	Double-headed eagle crest	Sketch featuring double-headed eagle crest. Pencil on paper. 25 cm x 20 cm		
1:14	Decorative pattern	Sketch featuring decorative pattern. Pencil on paper. 21 cm x 22.5 cm		
1:15	Decorative border	Sketch featuring decorative border. Folded. Pencil on paper. 32 cm x 27 cm		
1:16	Decorative border and pencil portrait of man	Sketch featuring decorative border and pencil portrait of man. Folded. Pencil on paper. 15 cm x 20.5 cm		
1:17	Decorative pattern	Sketch featuring decorative pattern. Folded. Pencil on paper. 28 cm x 23 cm		
1:18	Decorative border with penciled individuals in center	Sketch featuring decorative border with penciled individuals in center. Pencil on paper. 36 cm x 27 cm		
1:19	Decorative border	Sketch featuring decorative border and portrait frame in center. Pencil on paper. 23 cm x 21.5 cm		
1:20	Sketchbook of scenes from Vancouver, ca. 1950	Sketchbook. Light blue paper front cover, cardboard back cover. 24 pages, unpaginated. 9 unsigned sketches. 25 cm x 20 cm. 1 sketch dated 1950 and captioned "Ванкуверъ. Улица"/ Vancouver. Street		
1:21	Belgrade in 1921 at the bazaar	Paper on pencil. 17 cm x 13 cm. On reverse: ticket to the local UNRRA theatre, 3.xii. 1946	Въ 1921 г. въ Бѣлградѣ на базарѣ	At the bazaar in Belgrade in 1921

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Box:Folder	Title	Description	Caption (Russian)	Translation
1:22	Sketchbook with scenes of refugees and DPs.	92 pages, unpaginated. 10 cm x 14 cm. Green marbled paper covered boards. 14 sketches, including 1 self-portrait	Зючка на пути въ Канаду  Первое перевозочное средство построенное Игоремъ для слъдованія въ Канаду	Zoehka on her way to Canada  The first transport vehicle built by Igor for travelling to Canada
1:23	DP camp-barrack scene (3 older men and a woman)	Ink and colored pencil on paper. 15 cm x 12 cm		
1:24	DP camp scene - laundry	Ink on paper. 25.5 cm x 17 cm		
1:25	DP camp scene - laundry	Ink on paper. 21.5 cm x 13 cm		
1:26	DP camp - barrack scene (men drinking soup)	Ink on paper. 14.5 cm x 10.5 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:27	DP camp scene (refugees in line for medical checkup)	Ink on paper. 13.5 cm x 9 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		

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1:28	DP camp scene (exterior view of barracks, with people in foreground)	Ink on paper. 14.5 cm x 11 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:29	DP camp scene (people waiting for food rations)	Ink on paper. 15 cm x 10 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:30	DP camp -barrack scene (people yelling at each other, curtain partitions)	Ink on paper. 21.5 cm x 13 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:31	DP camp scene- exterior of barrack with couple in foreground with a dog	Ink on paper. 21.5 cm x 13 cm. Signed Ivan But in lower right corner		
1:32	Molochnye stariki (old dairy people), signed But	Ink and pencil on paper. 28.5 cm x 20 cm. Signed But in lower right corner. Cyrillic text along bottom edge	Теперь, Богъ дастъ, на нашихъ старыхъ губахъ молоко не обсохнетъ	Now, God willing, the milk won't dry out on our old lips
1:33	Collective farmers and five-year plan	Ink and pencil on paper. 21 cm x 15 cm. Cyrillic text along bottom edge	Ну какъ, товарищъ колхозникъ, план выполнили полностью? Не то что, товарищ комисаръ, выполнили, а перевыполнили на 350 %, а все ходимъ	Well, comrade collective farmer, did you fulfill the plan completely? Not only we fulfilled it, comrade commissar, but

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			безъ штанов и голодные!...	we overfulfilled it by 350%, and we are still walking around without pants and hungry!
1:34	DP camp scene with two men and a woman	Ink on paper. 15 cm x 15 cm Cyrillic text along bottom edge	Ураа!!! Ді Рі бѣлый хлѣбъ получили!	Hurray! DP got white bread!
1:35	Scene of a group of people on a truck in the forest	Pencil on paper. 22 cm x 14 cm. Cyrillic text along bottom edge	Всѣми оставленными Богъ спасаетъ. под огнемъ къ Ельбѣ	God saves all who are abandoned. Under fire to Elbe
1:36	A man and a woman looking at calendar	Ink and pencil on paper. 14.5 cm x 21 cm. Cyrillic text along bottom edge	гдѣ этотъ месяцѣ, в который мы уѣдемъ запропастился	Where has this month disappeared in which we are going to leave
1:37	DP camp scene at the hairdresser's	Pencil on paper. 29 cm x 20 cm. Cyrillic text along bottom edge	Сударыня! Я теперь дѣлаю прически по ди- пи карточкѣ, чтобы, значить, внѣшность не особенно отличалась отъ тѣхъ лѣтъ которые въ ней указаны.	Madam! I now do hairstyles according to the DP card so that the appearance does not differ much from the years indicated in it.
1:38	DP camp scene of a man dancing	Pencil on paper. 25 cm x 20 cm. Signed И Бут in lower right corner (in Cyrillic). Cyrillic text along bottom edge	Ахъ ты, такой сякой, комаринскій ди-пи. Ты по улицѣ бѣжишь да подпрыгиваешь. Все	Oh, you are such and such, Komarinsky DP. You run and jump along the streets.

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Box:Folder	Title	Description	Caption (Russian)	Translation
			комиссии перепрыгиваешь.	You jump over all the commissions.
1:39	DP camp scene of two men skinning a horse with a group of people watching	Pencil and ink on paper. 13 cm x 20 cm. Cyrillic text along bottom edge	Не успеешь одну шкуру снять, а смотри сколько ихъ пришло [и то] всякого из нихъ нужно содрать кожу	You won't have time to remove one skin, but look how many of them have come [n.a.] each of them needs to be skinned
1:40	Sketchbook of DP camp scenes	134 pages, unpaginated. Green paper wrapper. 43 sketches, some studies for larger pieces. Pencil and ink on paper. 21 cm x 14.5 cm. Some have Cyrillic text along bottom edge	Изъ жизни изгнанныхъ правды ради	From life of the exiled, for the sake of truth
1:41	DP camp scene of two men	Ink on paper. 27.5 cm x 18 cm. Signed Ivan But lower right corner		
1:42	Two trucks with people and belongings, ruins in the background, signed Ivan But	Ink on paper. 21 cm x 12 cm. Signed Ivan But		
1:43	Scene of people entering church	Pencil on paper. 25 cm x 20 cm		
1:44	Family of "geese" in human cloth	Ink on paper. 17 cm x 18 cm.		
1:45	Woman walking with a carrying pole	Pencil on paper. 10.5 cm x 13 cm. И Бут in upper left corner (in Cyrillic).		
1:46	People on a walk	Pencil on paper. 25 cm x 20 cm.		

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Box:Folder	Title	Description	Caption (Russian)	Translation
1:47	Group of people looking at cart with luggage	Pencil on paper. 22 cm x 14 cm		
1:48	DP camp scene of group of people on the road	Ink on paper. 15 cm x 11 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:49	DP camp scene of soup distribution, signed But	Ink on paper. 21.5 cm x 12 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:50	Man and woman carrying barrel of soup	Ink and pencil on paper. 25 cm x 19.5 cm		
1:51	Group of people standing behind curtain	Ink and pencil on paper. 22 cm x 15 cm		
1:52	DP camp scene of two men looking at pair of torn trousers	Ink on paper. 22 cm x 12.5 cm. Signed Ivan But in lower right corner		
1:53	DP camp scene of two men walking with a cow followed by crowd	Ink on paper. 29 cm x 19 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:54	Group of people follow a horse-drawn	Ink on paper. 14.5 cm x 10.5 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		

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	cart loaded with bags			
1:55	Group of people searching in a pile of shoes	Ink on paper. 21.5 cm x 13 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:56	Group of people with shovels walking	Ink on paper. 14.5 cm x 10.5 cm.		
1:57	DP camp scene of laundry hanging between trees	Ink on paper. 23 cm x 13.5 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:58	Group of people standing in front of slightly open door	Ink on paper. 17 cm x 13 cm. Signed But in lower right corner		
1:59	Man with his belongings walking through forest	Ink on paper. 17 cm x 15 cm. Signed But in lower right corner	DP прыбыль въ Канаду	DP arrived in Canada
1:60	Group of people fighting their way through the door, signed But	Ink on paper. 15 cm x 24 cm. Signed But in lower right corner	Выдача американскихъ подарковъ	Distribution of American gifts
1:61	Two men with bicycles standing by the side of the road	Ink on paper. 15 cm x 15 cm.	Слава Богу все обошлось благополучно только отъ паденія носъ свернуло на сторону и три зуба выбил. Ну тепер идемъ въ капутцарницу- на перевязку. Да это виноваты эти проклятыя нѣмецкія	Thank God everything turned out well only from the fall my nose was twisted to the side and three teeth were knocked out. Well now let's go to the [kaputsarnitsa] to have my wound

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			дороги- всюду лежитъ или камышекъ или колючая проволока!	bandaged. Yes, it's these damned German roads that are to blame, there's either pebbles or barbed wire everywhere!
1:62	Group of people walking over the globe, with marked locations of Atlantic ocean, Bremen and Halifax	Pencil on paper. 14.5 cm x 8 cm.	Слава Богу, Вы этотъ тяжолый и опасный путь прошли, мы еще путешествуемъ.	Thank God you have passed this difficult and dangerous path, we are still traveling.
1:63	Man with lantern leading horse cart through the forest	Pencil on paper. 21.5 cm x 14.5 cm.	Никто насъ не могъ понять, какъ это русские бѣгутъ отъ побѣдителей русскихъ. немцы американцы и другіе недоумѣвали;- потребовалось тысячи замученныхъ и наконец, Корея чтобы насъ поняли а и то далеко не всѣ	No one could understand us, how the Russians were running away from the Russian victors. The Germans, Americans and others were perplexed - it took thousands of tortured people and finally Korea for us to be understood, and even then not all of them.

Box:Folder	Title	Description	Caption (Russian)	Translation
1:64	Man with cart in front of large stone/mound; three figures in background	Pencil on paper. 20 cm x 25.5 cm.	Воспоминанія. Якобсталь -Камень пре[д]кновенія	Memories. Jacobsthal-the stumbling stone
1:65	Man, woman and dog pulling out a turnip	Ink on paper. 22.5 cm x 13.5 cm	Дѣдка за рѣпку, бабка за дѣдку, Жучка за бабку, тянуть- потянуть, вытянуть не могутъ!	The old man grabbed the turnip, the old woman grabbed the old man, and Zhuchka grabbed the old woman. They pulled and pulled, but they couldn't get it out!
1:66	Father cutting stale bread with a saw, surrounded by wife and children.	Ink and pencil on scrap paper. 20 cm x 14 cm. Cyrillic text along top edge. Drawn on page from a German publication, "Kein Asyl für Kriegsverbrecher" ("No Asylum for War Criminals")	Папа, когда мы будемъ свѣжій хлѣбъ есть? Когда ракъ свистнетъ.	Dad when will we eat fresh bread? When pigs fly.
1:67	Decorative patterns on parchment paper	Pencil on parchment paper. 75 cm x 72 cm		
1:68	Decorative pattern, poems in Russian on reverse	Pencil on paper. 34 cm x 30 cm. Two pieces of scrap paper glued together. One page contains poems in Russian.		
1:69	Decorative pattern	Pencil on scrap paper. 21 cm x 29 cm.		
1:70	Dalmatia, Konavle, Baranja	Sketch depicting folk costumes across Eastern Europe and the		

Box:Folder	Title	Description	Caption (Russian)	Translation
		Balkans. Colored pencil on paper. 27 cm x 19 cm		
1:71	Page with cartoons about DP's (in Russian) signed Kuznetsov	Newspaper page with DP cartoons on both sides. In Russian with English translations. 29.5 cm x 19.5 cm		
1:72	DP camp scene of distribution of soup	Ink on paper. 32 cm x 18 cm		
1:73	DP camp scene of man and woman by the garbage pit	Ink on paper. 30 cm x 21 cm	Что это васъ сегодня прорвало, что ли, всѣ помойные ямы рванью забросали. Да видишь, родной, вчера [Граи Ау] даваль одежд- она вся то в помойку и идет	What's got you all worked up today, all the garbage pits are filled with rags. You see, my dear, yesterday [Grai Au] gave us clothes - they all went into the garbage.
1:74	A group of people in urban clothing pulling man in a cart through the forest	Ink on paper. 30 cm x 21 cm. Signed But (in Cyrillic)	Подъ бомбами въ неизвестность	Under the bombs into the unknown
1:75	A woman and her daughter setting up an abundant table for Easter celebration	Ink and pencil on paper. 30 cm x 21 cm	Top: (unreadable text) она вам подтвердитъ (unreadable) чѣм теперь живутъ русскіе люди. Bottom: Мама я не могу держать яйца до техъ поръ пока батюшка придет.	She will confirm how Russian people live now. Mom, I cannot carry the eggs until the priest comes.

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1:76	A cart pulled by three horses	Ink on paper. 30 cm x 22 cm		
1:77	DP camp scene of people picking up boxes of possibly humanitarian aid, with a group of poorly dressed people waiting outside	Ink on paper. 30 cm x 21 cm. Signed But		
1:78	DP camp scene of group of people in front of wooden house	Ink on paper. 29.5 cm x 21.5 cm. Signed Шлейсхайм in lower right corner	Шлейсхайм	Schleissheim
1:79	A group of people in urban clothing pulling man in a cart through the forest	Ink on paper. 33 cm x 23 cm. Signed But (in Cyrillic)		
1:80	A notebook titled <i>Maslianaia zhivopis'</i> [Oil painting]. Notes in Russian (handwritten)	Undated, unpaginated. Grey speckled paper wrapper, white paper label on front cover. 20 cm x 30 cm		
1:81	A notebook with sketches and studies of DP life	Dark green paper wrapper, unpaginated. Contains 7 sketches and studies. 30 cm by 21 cm		