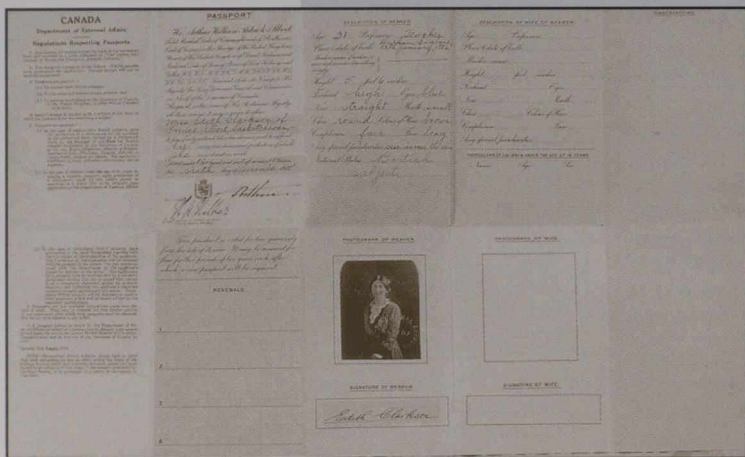




The Canadian Passport, Then and Now

The word "passport" comes from the French "passe port." It allows the bearer, literally, to pass through a port. Technically a letter from the head of state, the document offers the holder unimpeded passage and protection. It also identifies the person using it as a citizen of the issuing country.



Canadian passport, 1915.

Un passeport canadien de 1915.

The *Canadian Passport Order* provides direction to Passport Office officials, and specifies under which conditions a passport may be issued, refused or revoked. The passport is issued under royal prerogative, and remains the property of the Government of Canada.

The Canadian passport's history is closely linked to Canada's history as a colony and to her relations with the United States.

Prior to 1862, passports were issued by local mayors to naturalized citizens, that is aliens who were granted the rights and privileges of citizens. (At the time, of course, all residents other than Natives were immigrants.) British subjects did not require Canadian passports, and a traveller to Europe would pick up a passport at the Foreign Office in London. But during the Civil War, American authorities required more reliable certification from people living in Canada. Therefore, in 1862, Governor General Viscount Monck introduced a centralized system for issuing passports.



Dry-seal used in the production of passports, circa 1945.

Sceau servant à la fabrication des passeports, vers 1945.

From 1867 until 1895, responsibility for Canadian travel documents passed from the Governor General to the Secretary of State to provincial lieutenant governors. Until 1925 there were two kinds of passports issued to British subjects. The first was issued to naturalized British subjects granted protection as a matter of courtesy; the second, supplied to British subjects by birth, conferred protection as a matter of right. After August 1925, all British subjects received similar documents.

In 1946, jurisdiction over passports was transferred to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. Then, in 1947, the *Canadian Citizenship Act* decreed that, from then on, only Canadian citizens were eligible for Canadian passports.

The way it was, circa 1965.

Nos binettes d'alors, vers 1965.

