B4 Identification

From 1912, the French authorities required anyone with no permanent place of residence to carry a “carnet anthropométrique”. It was the first such document to list physical details and contained both a photograph and fi ngerprints. Other European countries soon followed suit.



1910

1951

1912

Did you know

... that Roma and Sinti were the first Europeans to have to carry personal identification papers?
... that the modern passport only came into general use after the Second World War?

Your task

What forms of ID do you have on you? How much information do these documents reveal about you? What does an ID say about a person?

About the photo

A French “carnet anthropométrique” - a special identification paper for people of no fixed abode, complete with photographs and fingerprints along the lower margin of the document. Nothing more is known about the bearer of this document. Emmanuel Filhol Collection, Bordeaux, France.

https://www.romasintigenocide.eu/en/b