

Cash savings card

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German postal savings card from the Regis-Breitingen municipal savings bank. Card information and 6 red stamps are on the front cover. Inside are 19 red stamps. On the back is some information.

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Period 1st half of the 20th century, 4th quarter of the 19th century

Measurements 20 x 12 cm

Historical context

Savings banks have existed in Germany since 1778 as patriotic charitable institutions. However, it was the influence of the British Ruthwell Savings Bank model that led to the creation of the majority of “modern” savings banks and credit unions after the Napoleonic era. These institutions quickly formed associations to, among other things, coordinate their efforts to promote savings, notably through piggy banks.

At the same time, another group of institutions was also concerned with popular savings: banking services linked to post offices. Very early on, postal service banks introduced ways of promoting small savings, such as postal savings cards. Savers affixed stamps purchased in post offices, then deposited their savings card in their bank account.

This system was first adopted in 1880 by the British Post Office Savings Bank. The system is also used by a number of savings banks and credit unions, such as the Regis-Breitingen Municipal Savings Bank. Postal services, however, are the main users.

The use of stamps, however, limits the possibilities of saving larger sums. This is when piggy banks were gradually adopted by financial institutions.



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