

# Piggy bank mobile

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/piggy-bank-2020-002-0336/>

Collections / piggy bank



CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license

Portable piggy bank from the Swiss savings bank HYSPA. The metal case is oval-shaped and blue in color. It has a handle and a slot on the top. On the front, a red and white plate features the institution's lettering.

---

Accession Number 2020.02.336

Fabricant / Éditeur Bauer, A.-G. Geldschrank-Fabrik

Period 1st half of the 20th century

Materials metal, steel

Measurements 6 x 9,3 x 5,3 cm

---

## Historical context

In the early 20th century, many financial institutions adopted the American piggy bank system. These promotional tools for savings were owned by the bank and rented out to depositors so that they could fill them up and deposit their savings in banks. In Switzerland, piggy banks were introduced by American manufacturers as early as 1905 in some fifteen savings banks.

Although the market was dominated by U.S. dealers, Swiss manufacturers such as A.-G. Bauer Geldschrank-Fabrik in Zurich were also successful. The company supplies Swiss savings banks such as HYSPA. This impetus for piggy bank manufacture followed the success of American inventor Charles Owen Burns' invention, which was quickly adopted by banking institutions. Piggy bank shapes and patents were similar, and some parts and mechanisms were even passed on between manufacturers.

Switzerland was one of the first countries to introduce savings banks in the 19th century. In fact, its first savings bank was probably the

Sparkasse Schwyz, founded in 1812. It was inspired by the Ruthwell Savings Bank, a Scottish savings bank founded in 1810. This institution, founded by mutual aid societies, quickly became a model throughout Europe.

© Pointe-à-Callière Collection, 2020.002.0336

Photo by Louis-Etienne Dore

On display