

Piggy bank mobile

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Portable piggy bank from the Waynesboro bank in the USA. The metal case is rectangular in shape. It has a handle on the top and a slot on the side. On the front, a plaque features the bank's logo.

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Fabricant / Éditeur Burns Co.

Date 1895 c

Materials metal, chrome

Measurements 8,3 x 11,1 x 5,7 cm

Historical context

The American Charles Owen Burns was the driving force behind piggy banks as a means of promoting savings. His 1890 patent presented a system for collecting savings in the form of a metal box, owned by the bank, which is rented to the depositor so that he can fill it and then deposit his savings in the bank.

These piggy banks, which can vary slightly in shape, were purchased by many American banks, and then elsewhere in the world, at the turn of the 20th century. C.O Burns won a contract with the Post Office Savings Bank: his piggy banks were then distributed throughout the British Empire and Europe. The competition soon followed suit. This success reflects the correspondence between the technology offered by manufacturers and the needs of financial institutions.

At the beginning of the 19th century, the leaders of the northeastern United States, although American, came from the British world. They exchanged ideas with their European counterparts, particularly concerning social change and the fight against poverty. American

savings models were inspired by British innovations in this field. Nevertheless, this “social impulse” differed according to the policies in place and cultural habits: most financial institutions dedicated to savings were created in the North-East of the country.

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On display