

Piggy bank mobile

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New Zealand portable piggy bank. It belongs to the British Post Office Savings Bank. The metal case is rectangular. Its sides are rounded. It has a handle on the top and a slot on the side. On the front, a plate bears the institution's inscriptions.

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Fabricant / Éditeur Fiscus Ltd.

Date 1910 c

Materials metal, steel

Measurements 6,2 x 9,6 x 5,1 cm

Historical context

As in other former colonies of the British Empire, home savings boxes were popular in New Zealand. The majority of these boxes were used by the Post Office Savings Bank from 1909 onwards.

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

These piggy banks, which varied 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 in the British Empire under the name Fiscus Limited.

At the beginning of the 19th century, banks and savings banks were created in Great Britain by fraternal benefit societies. Subsequently, similar institutions were set up in Europe and North America. They

soon grouped together in associations to, among other things,
coordinate their efforts to promote savings.

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