

Piggy bank mechanical recorder

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Mechanical money box from the French savings bank Le Petit Parisien. The metal case is rectangular. The name of the institution and a mechanical counter are located on the top. Operating instructions are written on the back. The piggy bank opens from the top and the counting mechanism is located under the lid.

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Period 1st half of the 20th century

Materials metal

Measurements 7,8 x 10,9 x 6,1 cm

Historical context

At the turn of the 20th century, piggy banks became one of banking

institutions' preferred means of promoting savings. The boxes remained the property of the bank, and were leased to depositors so that they could fill them up and deposit their savings in the bank.

American piggy bank manufacturers are taking advantage of their presence in Great Britain to make inroads into Europe, particularly France. The various savings banks were quick to offer piggy banks to their customers. However, unlike the situation in Great Britain, this system of savings promotion did not extend to other financial institutions such as commercial banks.

Numerous models were introduced, including automatic and mechanical money dispensers in December 1902. The idea stemmed from the fact that savers wanted to know exactly how much money they had accumulated before their piggy banks were full. For mechanical models like this one, coins are inserted into a slot and a counting mechanism shows the amount accumulated.

Compared with automatic piggy banks, these models have not been a hit with American financial institutions, or anywhere else in the world. This may be due to the complexity of the counting mechanism and their unreliable operation.

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