

Piggy bank mobile

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Collections / piggy bank



Portable piggy bank from the Savings and Support Association in Braunau, Austria. The chrome-plated case is round in shape. A handle and slot are located on the top. Inscriptions are engraved around the edge of the piggy bank. It has a lock.

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Fabricant / Éditeur Geschutzt?

Period 1st half of the 20th century

Materials metal, chrome

Measurements 6,5 x 10,5 cm

Historical context

In Austria, the first savings bank was founded in 1819. It was the Leopoldstadt Savings Bank in Vienna. It was part of a European social movement initiated in Great Britain with the creation of the Ruthwell Savings Bank in 1810.

At the turn of the 20th century, the American system of promoting savings through piggy banks gradually spread to all continents. The boxes remain the property of the bank and are rented out to depositors so that they can fill them up and deposit their savings in the bank.

In the Austro-Hungarian Empire before the First World War, piggy banks were introduced by the American manufacturer C.O. Burns Co. between 1905 and 1907, and some 200 institutions adopted the system. After the war and the dismemberment of the empire, local manufacturers emerged in the new states, although the market was dominated by American merchants.

This drive to make piggy banks followed the success of American Charles Owen Burns' invention, which was quickly adopted by banking institutions. Piggy bank shapes and patents are similar, and some parts and mechanisms are even passed down between manufacturers.

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Photo by Daphnée Bouchard

On display