

Piggy bank mechanical recorder

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Collections / piggy bank



Mechanical money box from The State National Bank. The metal case is rectangular in shape. The rounded top features a counter and a slot. On the front is a lock and a plate bearing the bank's logo. A crank on the side operates the counting mechanism.

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Fabricant / Éditeur Burdick-Corbin Co.

Date 1902 c

Materials metal

Historical context

From the last decade of the 19th century onwards, many American financial institutions adopted the portable piggy bank system developed in 1890 by the American Charles Owen Burns. The boxes remain the property of the bank and are leased to depositors so that they can fill them up and deposit their savings in the bank.

These boxes became one of the banking institutions' preferred means of promoting savings. They call on the many manufacturers on the market, the vast majority of whom offer similar models.

Although these piggy banks were particularly well established in the market, a new model appeared in December 1902: cash register piggy

banks (automatic and mechanical). The idea came from the realization 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, operated by a crank, reveals the amount accumulated. This is Burdick-Corbin's oldest model, patented in 1902. Compared with automatic cash registers, 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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