

Piggy bank bus

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Bus money box from Swedish savings bank Älmhults Sparbank. This metal model is red and white. There's a slot on the roof of the bus, along with the bank's logo. These are also inscribed on the side of the piggy bank.

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Period 2nd half of the 20th century

Materials metal

Historical context

At the turn of the 20th century, a number of Swedish banks decided to adopt the American system of promoting savings through piggy banks. The number of member institutions increased significantly in the first half of the century, with the emergence of local manufacturers

supplanting American ones in the country.

While the first generations of piggy banks were generally metal, rectangular in shape and with a handle, manufacturers were quick to offer increasingly original models, often corresponding to cultural fashions or political movements. Similar standards were applied, however, including a number and a secure key kept by the banking institution. From the 1950s onwards, these principles were less respected, as financial institutions had to free themselves from management constraints and costs.

Bus piggy banks were designed in Sweden to evoke the sparbus, a system of savings banks on wheels initiated by the Scandinavian country. Travelling around the country, these buses stop at predefined points and times to collect depositors' savings. These piggy banks were a great success, especially with children. The collection system was then adopted by other countries, and the piggy banks with them.

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Photo by Daphnée Bouchard

On display