

# Piggy bank hat

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/piggy-bank-2020-002-0978/>

Collections / piggy bank



Hat money box from the Washington Mutual Savings Bank. The brown metal case features a plate with the institution's lettering. A slot and a lock are located under the hat.

---

Accession Number 2020.02.978

Fabricant / Éditeur Stronghart Company

Period 2nd half of the 20th century

Materials metal

---

## Historical context

American financial institutions were early adopters of the piggy bank savings promotion system, developed in 1890 by the American Charles Owen Burns. The boxes remain the property of the bank and are rented to depositors so that they can fill them up and deposit their savings in the bank.

While the first generations of piggy banks were generally metal, rectangular in shape and with a handle, manufacturers were quick to come up with 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.

Thus, after the Second World War, the US manufacturer Stronghart Company produced piggy banks for military purposes, such as soldiers' hats and cartridges.

© Pointe-à-Callière Collection, 2020.002.0978

Photo by Daphnée Bouchard

On display