

Postcards

Postal savings card

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Savings card from the Swedish postal savings bank Sveriges Postsparbank.
8 blue stamps are affixed.

Accession Number 2020.02.2042

Date 1883

Measurements 10 x 13,4 cm

Historical context

In the early 19th century, banks and savings banks were founded in Great Britain by fraternal benefit societies. Subsequently, similar institutions were created in Europe and elsewhere in the world. They soon grouped together in associations to, among other things, coordinate the promotion of savings, notably through piggy banks. At the same time, another group of institutions was also concerned with popular savings: post office banks. Very early on, postal service banks introduced ways of promoting small savings, such as postal savings cards. Savers affixed stamps purchased in post offices, then deposited their savings card in their bank account.

In Sweden, Sveriges Postsparbank began offering postal savings cards in 1883. Although the system is also used by some savings banks, the postal services are the main users. Like the savings institutions, the postal service banks were pioneers in promoting popular savings. The use of stamps, however, limited the possibilities of saving larger sums. As a result, piggy banks were gradually adopted by financial institutions.