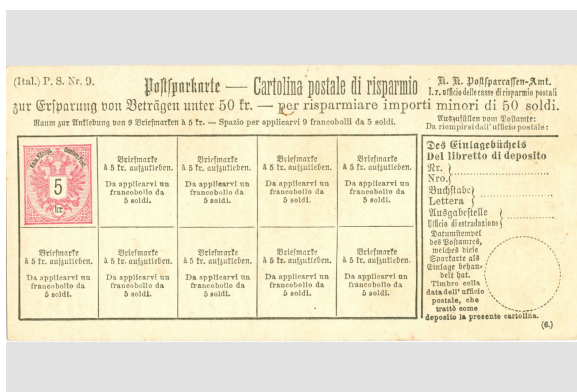


Postcards

Postal savings card

<https://collections.pacmusee.qc.ca/en/objects/postal-savings-card-2020-002-2098/>

Collections / postal savings card



CC BY-NC-ND 4.0 license

Bilingual German/Italian postal savings card with red German stamp.

Accession Number 2020.02.2098

Fabricant / Éditeur P. S. Nr 9

Period 4th quarter of the 19th century

Measurements 7,6 x 15,9 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.

In Italy, the first postal service bank was Cassa dei Depositi e Prestiti, founded in 1876. Although the system is also used by some savings banks and credit unions, the postal services are the main users. Savers affix stamps purchased at post offices, then deposit their savings card in their bank account.

The use of stamps, however, limits the possibilities of saving larger sums. This is when piggy banks were gradually adopted by financial institutions.