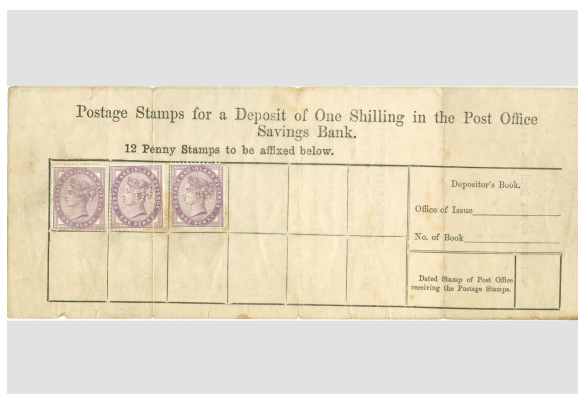


Postcards

# Postal savings card

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British postal savings card from the British Post Office Savings Bank. Three purple stamps are affixed.

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Accession Number 2020.02.2178

Period 4th quarter of the 19th century

Measurements 8,3 x 20,9 cm

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## 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.

The world's first postal savings bank, the Post Office Savings Bank, was founded in Great Britain in 1861. It adopted the postal savings card system in 1880. Although the system is also used by some savings banks and credit unions, postal services are the main users. Like savings institutions, postal service banks were pioneers in the promotion of 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.