

Stamp savings booklet

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Postal savings card from the British National Savings movement.

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Period 3rd quarter of the 20th century

Measurements 5,5 x 14,2 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 various postal savings cards.

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 National Savings Movement was launched in 1916 to support the war effort. It operated in conjunction with various savings banks, such as the Post Office Savings Bank. In peacetime, it operated as a traditional savings service for private individuals.

However, the use of stamps limited the possibility of saving larger sums. This is when piggy banks were gradually adopted by financial institutions.