

Postal Financial Services:  
A Global-Historical Perspective

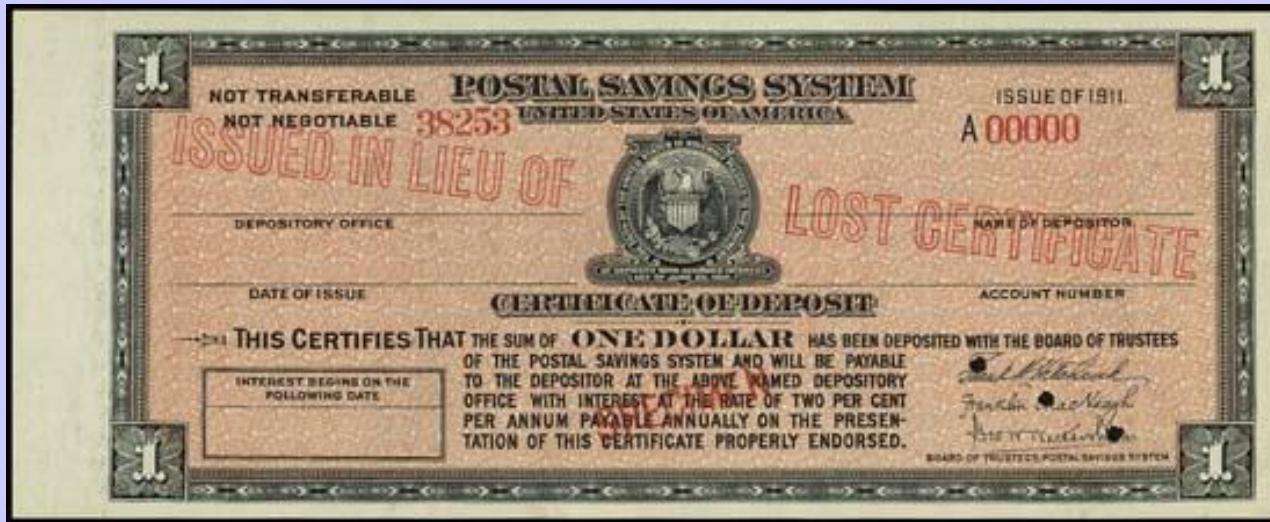
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## Accounts in Savings Banks and Postal Savings, 1909-1910

	Accounts per population		Accounts per population
Austria	22%	Netherlands	33%
Australia	33%	Sweden	39%
Belgium	37%	Switzerland	55%
France	34%	U.K.	30%
Germany	33%	<b>U.S.</b>	<b>10%</b>
Italy	22%	<b>U.S. (all banks)</b>	<b>16%</b>
Japan	35%		

Sheldon Garon, *Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves* (2012)

# U.S. Postal Savings System, 1911-1967



- Congressional, banking, and regional opposition to a Postal Savings Bank, 1873-1909
- Paid only 2% on deposits (real rate: near 1%)
- Not offered by “fourth-class” (mainly rural) post offices: only 7,000-8,000 postal savings branches, 1916-1967
- No deposits or withdrawals at another post office

## Major Postal Savings Banks, 1904-1906

	Year of Origin	Accounts
Austria	1883	1,900,194
Belgium	1870	2,316,633
France	1882	4,577,390
Great Britain	1861	9,673,717
Italy	1876	4,689,669
Japan	1875	6,658,758
Netherlands	1881	1,259,681
<b>U.S. (1930)</b>	1911	<b>466,401</b>
<b>U.S. (1947)</b>		<b>4,196,517</b>

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# France's Livret A

(small-savers' account, est. 1818)



- historically, offered at post offices and savings banks
- since 2009, at all banks (state subsidizes)
- no fee, tiny minimum balance, tax-exempt
- capped at €22,950 (\$31,200), one per person
- government sets interest (currently 1.0%; 2011: 2.25%)

# SAY POSTAL SAVINGS WILL HURT PEOPLE

Committee of American Bankers'  
Association So Reports  
on Plan.

## FAVOR LEGAL SAFEGUARDS

Admitted That Savings Deposits Are  
Trust Funds and Not Now Ade-  
quately Protected in All States.

CHICAGO, Sept. 16.—The postal sav-  
ings bank question came to the fore at  
the meeting of the savings bank section of  
the American Bankers' Association Con-  
vention here to-day.

In the midst of a committee report, ad-  
verse to postal savings banks, and  
speeches deprecating the entrance of the  
Government into the banking business, an  
open letter was received from the Postal  
Savings Bank League of the United  
States. The letter was addressed to  
George M. Reynolds, President of the  
American Bankers' Association, and was  
signed by Julius Goldzier, President of the  
Postal Savings Bank League. In part the  
open letter says:

"The recent expressions of officers of  
your association tend to show a spirit of  
opposition to postal savings banks, which  
while contrary to public opinion is also,  
as we believe, contrary to the best inter-  
ests of your business.

"The dominant party is most solemnly  
pledged to the establishment of the peo-  
ple's banks, yet in the same breath in

*New York Times,*  
Sept. 17, 1909