

The Mint Office in Acct with The States of Jersey

Header (top): "Nov 9/78 — 40 — Mess[r]s Puget, Bainbridge & C[o] for the Gov[ernmen]t of Ireland (for Dollar Silver) Cr[edit]"

This is a ledger account kept by Puget, Bainbridge & Co. (a London banking/merchant firm) on behalf of the **Government of Ireland**, specifically tracking transactions in **silver dollars** — likely Spanish milled dollars or similar trade coin used widely at the time.

First section (1808 transactions):

Left (Debit) side records purchases of "Irish Tokens" in batches:

- 2,500 @ £1666.8 (likely £1,666 8s)
- 3,500 @ £3,333.4
- 1,667 @ £3,333.4
- 2,500 @ £3,333.4
- 3,500 @ £3,333.4
- **Subtotal: £17,500**

Right (Credit) side records dollar payments:

- "Bal[ance] 31 July 1808 = £18,500"
- Aug. 4: By Dollars — £5,000
- Aug. 18: By D[itt]o — £5,000
- **Total: £28,500 less £17,500 = Bal. £11,000**

Second block:

- More Irish Token purchases: $3,333.4 + 2,666.8 + 4,333.4 = £10,333.4$
- "Bal[ance] 31 Aug. 1808 = £11,000" on credit side, netting to £10,332.4

Third block (Sep–Nov 1808):

- "Bal[ance] 30 Sep. 1808 = £666.8"
- Nov. 3: By Dollars — £7,666.8
- Nov. 15: By D[itto] — £4,583.4
- Nov. 26: By D[itto] — £57.11
- Irish Tokens debit: £3,333.4
- Running to "Balance 30 Nov. 1808 = £9,641.3" then £9,083.4

Fourth block (Dec 1808):

- To Irish Tokens: £3,333.4 + £3,333.4 + £2,416.8 = £9,083.4
- "Balance 15 Dec. 1808 = £557.11"
- Some receipts "from Mellers" £521.0.3½, "from Messrs.[?]" £56.3.11.3, and a note about a bill for £0.7.5.21 — totaling £557.11
= **Even**

Gap — "Even" / 1813 entry:

- "April 27 [1813]: By Dollars — £8,333.4 — See folio 129"

This gap from 1808 to 1813 is notable — possibly reflecting suspension of the account during the height of the Napoleonic Wars.

Lower section — separate account: "The Mint Office in Acct with The States of Jersey, through Messrs. De Lisle & Co. Cr[edit]"

This is a **separate ledger account** for the **States of Jersey** (the island's governing body), handled through De Lisle & Co.:

Debit (left) — purchases:

- May: To Dollars — £192. 3.10. 0
- Aug 16: D[itt]o — £99. 9.15. 0

- Ingots — £1,682. 8. 0 16
- D[itto] — £561. 2. 9. 6 / total £2535.11.14.22

Credit (right, 1813):

- Mar. 24: By Tokens — £166.8
- June 2: By D[itto] — £1,000
- June 8: By D[itto] — £1,369.3.14.22 / Paid — £2,535.11.14.22
= **Even**

Final line (1814):

Debit (left) — purchases:

- Ingots — £578.5.6.0

Credit (right, 1814):

- By Tokens — £578.5.6.0" dated March 16 1814 = **Even** (with a partially legible date "27 Apr 1814 ")

Historical Commentary:

This document dates from **1808–1814**, the heart of the Napoleonic Wars. Several important things are happening:

1. **Irish Token crisis:** Ireland and Britain suffered acute **silver coin shortages** in this period. The Bank of Ireland and government issued emergency "tokens" — temporary substitute coinage — while genuine silver was hoarded or exported. This ledger tracks the **conversion of Spanish silver dollars into Irish tokens**.
2. **Puget, Bainbridge & Co.** were acting as agents and intermediaries, essentially managing the **metal-to-token exchange pipeline** for the Irish government.
3. **The Jersey account** shows the same problem on the Channel Islands — Jersey's States government was similarly sourcing dollars and ingots to be struck as tokens or exchanged for coin.

4. **Currency in pounds/shillings/pence:** The monetary notation (e.g. £3,333.4) uses the old £.s.d system where ".4" = 4 shillings, not decimals.
5. The **1813 re-opening** of the Ireland account after a gap likely reflects the monetary reforms and return of more normal bullion flows as the war situation stabilized.

This is a rare primary source document illuminating the **wartime monetary emergency coinage system** of the British Isles.