

15 July 2021

John Luke
fyi-request-15705-2f77886a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John

Thank you for your request of 8 June 2021 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, which was partially transferred to the Reserve Bank of New Zealand on 21 June 2021. Your request related to Professor Harold John Simpson, and the parts transferred to the Reserve Bank were as follows (numbered for convenience):

1. *The names of the other members on the government appointed design committees for decimal coinage and bank notes...Also, their bio if you have them.*
2. *Terms of reference for both groups and their members' pay rate.*
3. *How did you call for public express of interest for these roles and what agency/website you used to advertise the role for these two groups?*

We have prepared the following itemised responses.

Response

1. *The names of the other members on the government appointed design committees for decimal coinage and bank notes...Also, their bio if you have them.*

Please refer to *Attachments 1* and *2* for lists of the members of the Coinage Design Committee and the Bank Notes Design Committee respectively.

We have located publicly available biographies for the following members of the Coinage Design Committee, which you can access via the links provided:

J.N.L. Searle - <https://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewEntity.do?code=AAOA>.

Alexander McLintock - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexander_Hare_McLintock.

Stewart Bell Maclennan - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stewart_Maclennan.

Professor Harold John Simpson - <https://www.odt.co.nz/star-news/star-christchurch/cantabrians-named-queens-birthday-honours-list>.

We have also located publicly available biographies for the following members of the Bank Notes Design Committee, which you can access via the links provided:

Gilbert Wilson - <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/notes-and-coins/notes/signatories-on-reserve-bank-of-new-zealand-banknotes/g-wilson>.

R.N. Fleming - <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/notes-and-coins/notes/signatories-on-reserve-bank-of-new-zealand-banknotes/r-n-fleming>.

We were unable to locate biographies for the other members of the Coinage and Bank Notes Design Committees, so that information is refused under section 18 (g) of the OIA.

You may be interested in the following bulletin article which discusses the history of New Zealand's decimal coinage:

<https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/-/media/ReserveBank/Files/Publications/Bulletins/2008/2008jun71-2wright.pdf>.

2. Terms of reference for both groups and their members' pay rate.

Please refer to *Attachment 1* for the terms of reference for the Coinage Design Committee.

We were unable to locate the terms of reference Bank Notes Design Committee, so that information is refused under section 18 (g) of the OIA.

The only information we located relating to the pay rates for individual members of these two committees is contained in the Decimal Currency Trust Account, please refer to *Attachment 3*. The pay rates are therefore refused under section 18 (g) of the OIA.

3. How did you call for public express of interest for these roles and what agency/website you used to advertise the role for these two groups?

We were unable to locate any information on how the members of the committees were recruited, this information is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the OIA.

Attachments

Item	Document / information description
1	Extract from <i>New Zealand History Noted – Bank Notes</i>
2	Extract from <i>Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives - Terms of reference and members of Coinage Design Advisory Committee</i>
3	Extract from <i>Appendix to the Journals of the House of Representatives – Decimal Currency Trust Account</i>

Further sources

We note that the Coinage Design and Bank Notes Design Committees were established over 50 years ago. Many of the public records for that period will not be available in digital formats, but hard copies should have been archived. If you are interested in locating the remaining information we were unable to provide, we would recommend you contact the following institutions for assistance: The National Library of New Zealand, New Zealand Archives, the Parliamentary Library, or Alexander Turnbull Library.


Disclaimers

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

The OIA allows charges to be imposed for the preparation of information in response to requests. The Reserve Bank is resourced to meet disclosure obligations for a reasonable level of requests and the cost of providing free responses to official information requests is generally borne by taxpayers. However, the Reserve Bank believes that requesters should bear some of the costs, where allowable under the OIA, when requests are made for large amounts of information, where a response is particularly complex, or where individuals or organisations make frequent requests. In this instance, no charge is allowable under the OIA.

Please note that we intend to publish a copy of this response on the Reserve Bank's website: www.rbnz.govt.nz/research-and-publications/official-information-requests. Responses to requests are published in order to improve public transparency and provide an additional resource for anyone seeking information.

Yours Sincerely



Tobias Vandenberg
Ministerial and OIA Adviser
Reserve Bank of New Zealand | Te Pūtea Matua

COINAGE DESIGN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee held its first meeting on 5 June 1964 and has now held six meetings. Time has also been spent in negotiation with designers and in checking material.

Members of the committee are:

Chairman: Mr J. N. L. Searle (Divisional Director, the Treasury).
 Members: Mr S. B. MacLennan (Director, National Art Gallery);
 Dr A. H. McLintock (Parliamentary Historian); Prof. H. J. Simpson (University of Canterbury); Mr A. Sutherland (past-President of the Royal Numismatic Society); Mr E. J. Walker (Chief Accountant, the National Bank of New Zealand Ltd.).

Mr Sutherland was a member of the 1933 committee which considered the design of existing coins. The current committee is fortunate to have this experience to assist it.

Three members of the committee (Mr MacLennan, Dr McLintock, and Professor Simpson) have acted as design consultants to the Reserve Bank for the new bank notes.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

These were to develop a series of attractive and pleasing designs helpful in educating the public in use of the decimal system, as well as being of satisfactory standard for coinage purposes. The committee is also to recommend designs for a commemorative dollar coin.

The committee had regard to the following:

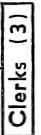
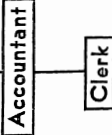
- (a) Inclusion of native or national emblems, features, flora, fauna, historical, or geographical subjects.
- (b) Obtaining suitable designs by open competition or other means.
- (c) The possibility and desirability of incorporating modifications of existing designs in corresponding decimal coins.
- (d) Wording on the coins, with provision for bold numerical values.
- (e) Placing of the date.
- (f) All other aspects of rim treatment and edge decoration, keeping in mind any feature influenced by coin-operated mechanisms.
- (g) Procuring satisfactory models for coin dies, including coordination of designers' intentions with die making and production.

The committee was free to discuss and comment on coin dimensions, specifications, and composition.

PUBLIC COMPETITION

Prior to the appointment of the committee, the Government announced a public competition for designs for six decimal coins. The closing date for the public competition was set at 31 July 1964. About 160 persons suggested more than 600 designs. The work of only three designers was selected for further consideration along with the work of designers chosen for further development work.

- 1. Establishment: 21. Strength: 31 March 1965 - 10.
- 2. Typing, records, mailing facilities provided by the Treasury.
- 3. The Secretary of the Board is also Chairman of the Coinage Design Advisory Committee, and Director of the Special Duties Division of Treasury.



Attachment 2

New Zealand History Noted

Designing the notes

De La Rue had prepared preliminary decimal note designs in 1960 for the Reserve Bank and in 1962 sent a representative to New Zealand to show some possible designs to the Reserve Bank, but the Bank decided to start afresh. In July 1964 a Design Committee, of which Mr Wilson was chairperson, was appointed to assist the Reserve Bank Board to decide on the artistic aspects of the decimal currency notes' design.

At the start of the design process the Decimal Currency Board specified the note sizes and the colours. The Reserve Bank decided the other essential features for the notes, the wording to be used, the watermark, the portrait of the Queen, the placing of the serial numbers and that the notes should contain birds. The printers De La Rue then informed the Committee of the printing tolerances they required and the necessary dimensions for the watermark.

The Design Committee spent many hours in consultation and studied about 100 bank notes from other countries before coming up with the designs. They were given a completely free hand in their task but realized the importance of making sure that the design material was authentic. This was especially so in respect of the Maori motifs, native birds and flowers. Recognized reference sources such as Buller's Birds of New Zealand were checked carefully and where appropriate and possible, leading experts were consulted. Members of the Design Committee themselves had talents which were utilized. Mr MacLennan was a leading water colourist and an associate of the Royal College of Art London while Dr McLintock was an etcher with a deep knowledge of colour work.



This trial note design came to light in 2003 and was produced by De La Rue for the Reserve Bank in October 1964. The note was offered for auction by Noble Numismatics in its Melbourne July 2003 auction.

A Twenty Dollar note for this design series was also produced for consideration by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand in October 1964.

Pictures supplied courtesy of Noble Numismatics Pty Ltd.

The Design Committee comprised six members but Mr MacLennan, Dr McLintock and Professor Simpson were primarily responsible for the detailed design work. They were determined to break away from the traditional design setting of including a frame on the face of the bank notes but equally determined that the notes should look like money. The Committee's main problem was to fit into their designs the protective measures against forgery required by the Bank and the printers. These included, in some very fine design work, subtle distinctions to catch forgers. There was also work on the notes done by machines that would be impossible for a forger to reproduce by hand. Another deterrent was to vary the thickness of various lines. One problem to which they had to pay great attention was the danger of the design on one side showing through to disfigure the Queen's face on the opposite side.



*Dominion Post
Collection,
Alexander Turnbull
Library,
Wellington, N.Z.*

*Two members of the Design Committee:
Mr Stewart Bell MacLennan (left) and Dr Alexander Hare McLintock (right).*

Design Committee

Gilbert Wilson

R.N. Fleming

R.M. Smith

Dr Alexander McLintock

Stewart Bell MacLennan

Professor H.J. (John) Simpson

Governor of RBNZ.

Chief Cashier of RBNZ.

Chief Accountant until 1966.

Parliamentary Historian and a noted etcher.

Director, National Art Gallery.

Dean of Faculty of Fine Arts,

University of Canterbury.

The last three members listed above were also members of the Coinage Design Advisory Committee which was responsible for designing the decimal coins.

Although the Reserve Bank did not impose any security measures on the Design Committee, its members took good care to ensure that none of their work leaked out to the media and public. At times, various groups or individuals made statements about the note design but none of their speculation was close. In the planning of the notes the Design Committee considered a number of alternatives - pictorial scenes, historic incidences, industrial depictions, flora and fauna. All possibilities were submitted to the Reserve Bank. Their own choice was the bird scenes and this was also selected by the Reserve Bank. The first indication of the features to be employed on the notes was in February 1966 when "a reliable source" divulged to a Wellington newspaper that birds would probably embellish the new decimal notes.

The Reserve Bank Board accepted the designs without much controversy. Much of the debate in the boardroom concerned the size of the new notes; it was agreed that the new notes were to be smaller in size than the previous sterling issue. The Board also endorsed the Design Committee's recommendation that the increment between denominations be smaller than had formerly been the case.

By February 1965, the basic configuration and concept of the notes had been completed and sent to the printers De La Rue in London. There a large team of designers and engravers started working on the task. Since the note printers were in England, the Design Committee had thought it was best to have the final designs created there. The Design Committee in close consultation with the skilled technical staff of Thomas De La Rue and Co. Ltd. London produced the final note designs. The Committee in New Zealand set the form and the main features of the notes; De La Rue was responsible for the rest.

Unofficial designs for the decimal coins were released in February 1966 but these caused controversy and were revised. In the same month, the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Mr Wilson, stated that for security reason, the design of the new notes would not be made public until shortly before 10 July 1967. The Bank wished to guard against forging and counterfeiting of notes before they went into circulation. Mr Wilson also revealed at the time that work on the notes was well forward and that the Bank directors had approved the designs. However he refused to say who had designed the notes.

The Reserve Bank decision to have the final designs produced by an employee from Thomas De La Rue did not please everybody. The head of the Auckland School of Fine Arts, Professor Paul Beadle was not impressed with a suggestion from the Governor, Mr Gilbert Wilson, that no New Zealander could have drawn the decimal notes. Professor Beadle expressed the view that the decision was a calculated slap in the face for New Zealand designers and the decision revealed a built-in official inferiority complex about our artists and designers. In his opinion he was sure there were several men in the country who could have done the job.



**“You’ve done a great job - they’re perfect copies - absolutely identical - even to
‘SPECIMEN’ right across each flaming one of ‘em!”**

Neville Lodge, 6 July 1967

Courtesy of Mrs P.J. Lodge

On the 8 June 1967 the designs of the new decimal notes were released for public scrutiny. The Reserve Bank had gone to great lengths to prevent the note designs leaking to the public previous to this date but in an unprecedented move it allowed photographs of the new notes to be published so that the public could become familiar with the designs before the changeover day. Besides newspaper and magazine publications featuring the designs of the new notes, coloured posters of the notes printed for the Reserve Bank by Thomas De La Rue and Company were publicly displayed in banks, Post Offices, railway stations, Government departments, schools and shops.

The poster produced by Thomas De La Rue which depicted the new decimal currency bank notes and coins.

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR CURRENCY
 TO BE ISSUED 10th JULY
 Note: £.s.d. currency also accepted, but please tender 2, 1, and 3, in multiples of 6.

$10\text{/-} = 1\text{d}$
 $1\text{/-} = 10\text{c}$
 $2\text{-}10\text{-}0 = 20\text{c}$
 $5 = 50\text{c}$
 $10 = 1\text{d}$
 $20 = 2\text{d}$
 $50 = 5\text{c}$

$12\text{d} = 1\text{c}$
 $24\text{d} = 2\text{c}$
 $6\text{d} = 6\text{c}$
 $1\text{s} = 10\text{c}$
 $2\text{s} = 20\text{c}$
 $5\text{s} = 50\text{c}$

ALL CHEQUES MUST BE IN DOLLARS AND CENTS

Issued by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand, Wellington

The One Dollar bill was the design team's favourite and the first of the notes to be drawn. The designers viewed it as the key to the whole series of bird motifs. It established a standard of quality and an appearance that all the other notes had to harmonize with. When preparing the bank notes, the high denomination notes in the series were given special attention. As they were the most valuable, the Design Committee wanted these denominations to look expensive. Most valuable of the notes was the red One Hundred Dollar bill which was comparable with the Fifty Pound note. The following statement from Dr McLintock showed the value of this denomination at the time. "What a pity it is that most of the public won't see



The One Dollar note - the design team's first and favourite design

Picture supplied courtesy of Noble Numismatics Pty Ltd.

BANK NOTES

These are the responsibility of the Reserve Bank. The bank announced the sizes of the new notes which will be in approximately the same basic colours as existing notes of corresponding value.

The new note sizes are—

\$1	(10s.)	140 × 70 mm	— brown
\$2	(£1)	145 × 72.5 mm	— mauve
\$5		150 × 75 mm	— probably an orange colour
\$10	(£5)	155 × 77.5 mm	— blue
\$20	(£10)	160 × 80 mm	— green
\$100	(£50)	160 × 80 mm	— red

DECIMAL CURRENCY TRUST ACCOUNT

The following is a statement of the Decimal Currency Trust Account for the year ending 31 March 1966:

Balance of account at 1 April 1965	£	1,506,875
Transferred during the year	£	1,500,000
			<u>£3,006,875</u>
<i>Expenditure—</i>		£	
Fees to Board and committee members		228
Salaries—staff appointed under the Decimal Currency Act 1964		19,243
Travelling expenses		2,320
Publicity, material, printing, and postage		20,835
Fees paid to publicity agents		4,986
Office expenses		5,765
<i>Pre-conversion expenses—</i>		£	
Registration		12,956
Rents		877
Staff training—technical staff		21,922
Administration and accounting		21,790
Premises and equipment		6,756
			<u>64,301</u>
			117,678
Closing balance 31 March 1966		2,889,197
			<u>£3,006,875</u>

A further £750,000 has been voted in the 1966–67 estimates. At this stage it is estimated that total expenditure will not exceed £4,500,000.

INTER-BANK DECIMAL CURRENCY

This committee has been established as a committee on decimal currency matters. It has been held on aspects of coinage and under appropriate circumstances the committee will work with the Post Office and trustee saving banks.

CURRENCY HANDLING

This committee organised by the Reserve Bank, all banks and a Treasury representative to deal with problems of coin and note distribution.

CONCLUSIONS

At the beginning of its operations, the programme. At the present time, the Board is ahead in some respects, of this programme.

The coming 12 months from July 1966 to July 1967 will be the Board's busiest period. A detailed programme for the Board shows a tremendous amount of work. The machine companies are making good progress and understanding is improving as has been demonstrated by the Board in both Auckland and Wellington.

Many details have now been settled and the Board will supervise the preparation work to ensure a smooth D.C. Day.

The Board acknowledges the ready assistance of its executives and staff who develop and carry out the project. It will be of tremendous help in ensuring a successful D.C. Day on 10 July 1967.

S. L. MOSES, Chairman.

J. N. L. SEARLE, Secretary

Wellington, New Zealand.
July 1966.