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Epilogue

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Editor's note

Welcome to the first issue of *Epilogue* for the 2019/2020 academic year. The schedule of speakers and topics for the monthly Lunch With... events in the Fall term is now available, posted below. For the AGM in October, the report of the Nominating Committee for election of members of the APE Executive is provided. Over the summer, eleven of our colleagues have passed away; the names are listed in the In Memoriam box. The issue closes with a reprinting of Keith Smillie's Mousing Around article no. 58, on the renowned cryptographer Alan Turing.

Visitors to campus this summer have noticed that the east end of the old Dentistry-Pharmacy building is being systematical demolished. With rooms now open to the air, presently it looks like one of those sad buildings in a bombed-out Syrian town. Can anyone explain why this is going on?

Ruth Gruhn

Notices

Schedule of Fall Lunch With... events

25 September

Graham Thompson will speak on the topic, "Repealing, resisting, and revolting: the new Alberta politics".

23 October – AGM

27 November

Mary Bailey, editor of *The Tomato*, will speak on the topic, "Adventures in publishing: how to be local in a digital world".

All events will be held in the Papaschase Room upstairs at the University Club (formerly the Faculty Club) at 12 noon on a Wednesday. If you plan to attend, please notify Emeritus House by phone or e-mail on or before the preceding Monday.

Christmas Brunch will be held at the University Club on Saturday 14 December.

Reports

REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

At its meeting on August 28, 2019 the APE Executive approved the following Slate of Candidates for a two-year term 2019-21; no further nominations have been received from the membership at large. APE bylaws state that no nominations from the membership shall be received at the AGM unless the Nominating Committee fails to secure a candidate for that office.

Nominated are the following:

For the term 2019-21:	President:	J. Douglas Dale
	Vice-President:	Jan Murie
	Treasurer:	Walter Allegretto
	Member-at-Large:	Don Carmichael
	Member-at-Large:	Tim Hartnagel

For your information:

Executive members whose current term will expire in 2020: Bente Roed (Member-at-Large)
Peter Murphy (Secretary)

Presidential appointees without term are: Ruth Gruhn (Editor, *Epilogue*)
Gordon Rostoker (*Technical Advisor*)

Past-President (ex-officio): June Panteluk

June Panteluk
Nominations Chair

In Memoriam

Margaret-Ann Armour	Chemistry
Marilyn Assheton-Smith	Education
Patricia Conger	Physical Education
Denis Goodale	Business
Christopher Hale	Germanic Languages
Paul Kebarle	Chemistry

Bryce Larke	Pediatrics
Manoly Lupul	Education
Mary Ellen Pyrch	Librarian
Rosalind Sydie	Sociology
Robert Thornberry	Romance Languages

Mousing Around

Keith Smillie

58. Alan Turing

Readers of this column undoubtedly know that the year 2012 was the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. In celebration of this anniversary, there have been two new biographies of his life. What is not nearly as well known is that 2012 is the 100th anniversary of the birth of the English mathematician, cryptographer, and philosopher Alan Turing. Although Turing was the subject of a column several years ago, there have been several recent developments relating to Turing that may make a second column of some interest at the present time.

Alan Mathison Turing was born on June 23, 1912, in a nursing home in Paddington, London, his parents having returned from India, where his father, Julius, was in the Indian Civil Service, for the birth of their second son. His father soon returned to India, as did his mother the following year. As his parents spent most of their time in India until Julius's retirement in 1926, Alan and an older brother were raised in various foster homes; and were educated in English public schools. Alan entered King's College, Cambridge, in 1931 to read mathematics. He graduated in 1934, and was elected a fellow of his college the following year. After receiving a Ph.D. from Princeton in 1938, he returned to resume his fellowship at King's.

Turing first became known for a paper he published in 1936, in which he investigated the limits of computational processes in mathematics and logic; and showed there were statements in mathematics that could neither be proven nor disproven. In his proof he developed a hypothetical device which "read" marked squares on an endless strip of paper tape; and, depending on the symbol read, erased the square or wrote another symbol in its place, and then moved one square to the left or right. This process was controlled by a table of "instructions". He then showed that there existed simple well-defined processes that the machine could not handle. He also constructed a "universal machine" whose tape contained not only the symbols to be processed but the table of instructions for any given individual machine. With these devices, Turing anticipated the concept of the stored-program electronic computer about fifteen years before the first one was constructed.

One collection of early papers on computers, first published in 1953 and still a delight to read, contains in its Glossary the following whimsical entry: "*Türing Machine*. In 1936 Dr. Turing wrote a paper on the design and limitations of computing machines. For this reason they are sometimes known by his name. The umlaut is an unearned and undesirable addition, due, presumably, to an impression that anything as incomprehensible must be Teutonic."

Immediately on the outbreak of the Second World War in September 1939, Turing took up a full-time position at the cryptographic headquarters at Bletchley Park in Buckinghamshire. His work on deciphering German messages encrypted by the Enigma machine resulted first in the generalization of the Polish Bombe, an electromechanical device for decrypting Luftwaffe traffic. He then developed methods for decrypting the much more difficult Enigma naval traffic. This latter work was said to have shortened the war by months or possibly years, and saved countless Allied lives. For his work at Bletchley Park, Turing was awarded the Order of the British Empire. After the war, Turing worked on the development of electronic computers, first at the National Physical Laboratory and then at the University of Manchester.

Turing probably first became aware of his homosexual orientation when he was at public school, and his biographies tell of his touching relationship with a fellow student during this time. In March 1952 Turing was arrested and charged with “gross indecency” because of a homosexual affair with a young man. Rather than be imprisoned, he agreed to a one-year period of estrogen injections to neutralize his libido. On June 8, 1954, he committed suicide by biting into an apple laced with cyanide.

Two early biographies of Turing are *Alan M. Turing* by his mother and published in 1959, in which she argues, with some conviction, that her son’s death was an accident. Andrew Hodges’ definitive *Alan Turing: The Enigma of Intelligence*, published in 1983, has been described as “a biography that cannot be bettered”. Also in the 1980s, the British playwright Hugh Whitemore wrote *Breaking the Code*, based on Turing’s life and work, which was later made into a British television drama. In 2006 David Leavitt of the University of Florida published *The Man Who Knew Too Much: Alan Turing and the Invention of the Computer*, which looks at the life and work of Turing through what one reviewer termed a “gay lens” in an attempt to appeal to a gay readership. This last book, marked with what I considered to be the author’s obsession with homosexuality, both Turing’s and other people’s, met with quite mixed reviews.

In recent years there was mounting pressure for a an official apology for the treatment Turing received from the law, with one petition, posted outside 10 Downing Street, having over 30,000 signatures. On October 10, 2009, the British Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, issued an official apology, saying in part that “The debt of gratitude he is owed makes it all the more horrifying that he was treated so inhumanely ...”. Finally, earlier this year Alan Turing was included in a series of ten stamps issued by the British Postal Service honouring “Britons of Distinction”.



