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ALAN TURING AND THE HISTORY OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Professor Simon Schaffer
University of Cambridge

8:00 pm on Tuesday, 12th April 2022
In the Studio Theatre of the LichfieldGarrick

The career of the great mathematician Alan Turing has drawn fascinated attention to his projects in the development of code breaking and automatic calculation, especially because of his participation in the wartime cryptological establishment at Bletchley Park. While Turing is now celebrated as a hero and emblem of the sciences of artificial intelligence and computation, his own interests and projects remain important and, in several respects, cautionary examples of the ways in which mathematics and philosophy, politics and engineering all interacted in the middle decades of the twentieth century. It is vitally important now to understand where Turing's programmes drew their inspiration, so as to make sense of the implications of that work for what was his future and has become our present.

Simon Schaffer teaches history of science at the University of Cambridge. He is Fellow of the Science Museum and of Darwin College and Wilkins-Bernal-Medawar medallist of the Royal Society. He is a regular contributor to *In Our Time* on BBC Radio 4 and has helped make a number of television documentaries about the past of the sciences, including a contribution to *Britain's Greatest Codebreaker* (Furnace TV, Channel 4, 2011). An earlier TV appearance was as Captain of the winning team in the 1974 University Challenge.

For further information, please see our website at www.LSES.org.uk
Students and Members Free.

Visitors £7.00. Tickets are not issued in advance, please pay at the door.

Members must sign in. Those signing in before 7:50 pm will have precedence over all visitors.

This lecture is expected to finish by 9.30 pm.