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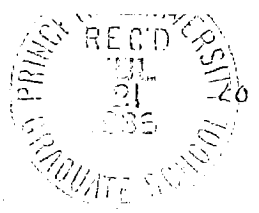
Graduate School Alumni Records

Turing, Alan Mathison

Class: *1938 ~~~ Dept: MAT

Death Date: 1954/06/08



July

King's College
Cambridge

183

Dear Mr Eisenhart,

Thank you for letting me know about accomodation in the Graduate School. Would you be so kind as to engage for me one of the suites you described.

I shall be reaching Princeton late in September or early in October. Can the question of enrolment be left until I arrive?

Please excuse my delay in writing. I have been waiting for some news which might have affected my plans appreciably, and which

has been unexpectedly long in arriving.

Yours sincerely

A. M. Turing

DIED JUNE 8,1954

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY — THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

TURING, ALAN MATHISON — Enrolled 9/29/36 — Department MATHEMATICS

Date and place of birth June 23, 1912 (Paddington, London) — Single x — Married

Bachelor and other degrees B.A. University of Cambridge, 1934; Ph.D. Princeton University, 1938

Previous graduate study 1934 (July) to August 1936 University of Cambridge

Teaching experience Jan. 1935 to June 1936 Supervisor of Undergraduates, University of Cambridge

Address: Princeton 183 G.C.; 182 G.C.

Parent or Guardian and address Mr. J. M. Turing, 8 Ennismore Ave., Guildford, England.

1936-37 Fellow from King's College

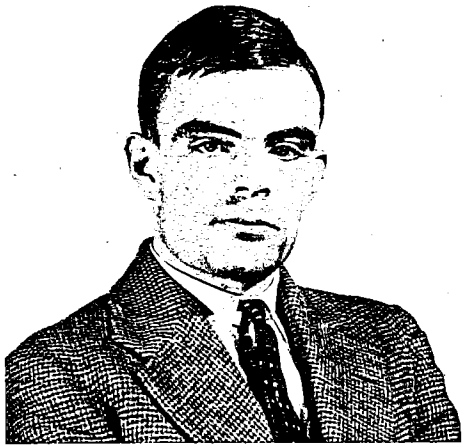
1937-38 Jane Eliza Procter Visiting Fellow in Mathematics

1938- Fellow at King's College, Cambridge

A. M. or M. F. A. — Degree granted

[2-302]

Address



PH. D.

French Satisfactory May 20, 1937 — German satisfactory May 20, 1937

General Examination Passed May 26, 1937

Dissertation Subject "Systems of Logic Based on Ordinals".

Dissertation accepted May 18, 1938 — Published under

Published 1939. Printed by C.F.Hodgson and Son,Ltd.,2 Newton St., London,W.C.2,England. Copies sent University Library 1939.

Final Examination Passed May 27, 1938 — Degree granted June 21, 1938

Diploma address

TURING, ALAN MATHISON

FIRST TERM

1936-1937

Theory of Invariants (I.A.S.) - -(Weyl) P
501 Mathematical Logic - - - - - (Church) P

1937-1938

Research and work on dissertation under the direction of - - - - - - (Church)

Department MATHEMATICS

SECOND TERM

1936-1937

570 Theory of Relativity - - - (Robertson) P
516 Advanced Theory of Functions of a Real Variable - - - - - - - - - - - (Bochner) P

1937-1938

Research and work on dissertation under the direction of - - - - - - - - - - (Church)

02—Remington Rand Inc.-13 214-965

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Application for Admission

Date .....

Department of Proposed Study .....

Name of Applicant in Full (block letters):

.....Alan Mathison Turing.....

Present Post Office Address:

.....

Permanent or Home Address:

.....

Application for Fellowship or Scholarship

All applications for Fellowships and Scholarships must be received in the Office of the Graduate School by March 1. Ordinarily the fellowships and junior fellowships are awarded to men who have had a year or more of graduate study in a graduate school, and the scholarships, carrying free tuition, to men who have not had such study. If a candidate, in answering the first question below, indicates that he wishes to be considered only for a fellowship, it will be the understanding of this office that he does not wish to be considered for a scholarship, if a fellowship is not available.

State whether you are hereby applying for either a Fellowship or a Scholarship?.....

If you are applying elsewhere also, give the names of the institutions: .....

.....

This information will not prejudice the consideration of this application at Princeton.

Date and place of birth: .....

Name and address of parent or nearest relative:

.....

.....

Condition of general health .....

of eyesight ....., of hearing .....

Colleges or universities attended, with period of attendance at each, and degrees received, with dates: (For example: Haverford College 1927-1931, A.B. 1931; University of Chicago 1931-1932, A.M. 1932).

.....

.....

EXTRACT FROM UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

1. The total enrolment of graduate students is limited to two hundred and fifty.

All applications for admission to the Graduate School of Princeton University are received subject to whatever provisions may determine the mode of limiting the enrolment of graduate students. Admissions are limited to male students.

2. *In every case admission is granted for not more than one academic year.* An application for readmission is necessary for every subsequent year. All applications for admission and for readmission are considered on or about April 20 of each year, except that those who are awarded Princeton fellowships or scholarships for an academic year are granted admission for that year at the time of the award. An application received after admissions have been determined will be placed on file for consideration in case of a vacancy under the limitation of enrolment. Applications received after June 15 may not be acted upon before the opening of the University in September.

3. A bachelor's degree in distinctively liberal studies, granted by a college or university of recognized standing, is requisite for admission, but is not sufficient of itself. An examination of an applicant's academic record is made to determine whether he has established a strong affirmative case in regard to the character of his general education and his fitness for graduate work in his proposed subject of study. In admissions regard is given to character and promise as well as to scholastic attainment. In every case admission is determined, under the limitation of enrolment, after a comparison of the relative merits of all the candidates who wish to pursue their studies in the same field or department. Acceptance of a bachelor's degree other than one in distinctively liberal studies is allowed only in cases of unusual merit.

Any one admitted to the Princeton Graduate School should, before beginning his graduate study, acquaint himself with the full text of the Regulations as printed in the opening pages of the Official Register of the Graduate School.

Applicants will be notified of the result of their applications as soon as possible after April 25. To those who are admitted will be sent a form on which application may be made for residence in the buildings of the Graduate College.

INFORMATION TO BE SUPPLIED BY EVERY APPLICANT

Submit with this application 2 personal photographs of the size approximately 2½ x 2¾ and an official transcript of your undergraduate record (including entrance credits and honors conferred), obtained from the proper official of the institution which granted the degree; also an official transcript of graduate work completed, if any.

Submit also a detailed statement of the courses which you have taken in the subject in which you are proposing to do graduate work. The statement about each course should contain a list of the subjects treated in the course (about three lines), the books used, and an indication as to how the course was conducted, whether by lecture, recitation, or a combination of these, or laboratory work, and whether there were regular conferences between you and the instructor in charge. (It is not necessary to supply this information concerning courses taken in Princeton University.)

Give the names (with titles) and addresses of several persons whom you are asking to write intimately and confidentially about your qualifications. The list should include two of your college or university teachers, and the persons most competent to speak of your work in any positions which you have held. Such letters are not necessary in the case of a graduate of Princeton, unless he has carried on studies elsewhere. These personal letters should be sent by the writers directly to the Dean of the Graduate School, and reach him by March 1, if you are applying for a fellowship or graduate scholarship.

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.....

FURTHER QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY EVERY APPLICANT

Single or married?..... (If single, do you expect to change this status before the end of the next academic year?) .....

If married, or expect to be married before the end of the next academic year, are you prepared to provide for the support of your family next year? .....

(a) Can you read books in your chosen field of study in French?..... In German?.....

Can you read simple Latin prose? .....

Since a reading knowledge of French and German is necessary for graduate study as conducted at Princeton, it is important that a candidate acquire such a reading knowledge as quickly as possible. An admitted candidate is expected to take an examination in one of these languages early in the first term. (See catalogue for special departmental regulations concerning language examinations.)

(b) What plan have you for increasing your attainment in these languages before next year if you are not prepared to take an examination in these subjects upon admission? .....

.....

(c) What foreign languages other than these can you read? .....

Indicate original work or investigation which you have done, and list with title, date, and place of publication any books or contributions to periodicals.

.....

.....

.....

Indicate, with dates, academic positions you have held, such as fellowships and teaching positions, giving the name of the institution:

.....

.....

.....

Indicate, with dates, business positions you have held, giving the name of the firm:

.....

.....

How many years of graduate study do you now contemplate? .....

For what degree do you plan to qualify? .....

To what career do you look forward? .....

Signature of applicant: .....

Check enclosures: Transcript of record: undergraduate..... graduate.....

Photographs .....

Other documents .....

When the above questions have been answered, your application should be forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey.

August 4, 1937

My dear Mr. Turing:

Your letter of July 24th has just been received, and I am enclosing herewith a copy of a letter which was sent you on July 8th, but sent to your home address. In case you have already received the original, please destroy the enclosed copy.

With best wishes to you for a very pleasant summer holiday, and looking forward to seeing you at the opening of the University, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Alan Mathison Turing,
King's College,
Cambridge, England.

September 10, 1936

My dear Mr. Turing:

Your cable has just been received. I am enclosing herewith a copy of my reply which I hope will enable you to get your visa. Dean Eisenhart will not return to Princeton from England until the 18th of this month. However, I am enclosing herewith two letters, stating that you have been granted admission to the Graduate School, which may be of assistance to you in making your arrangements to come to this country.

Sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dean Eisenhart

Mr. A. M. Turing,
8 Ennismore Avenue,
Guildford, England.

3 Encs.

England

Feb. 16. 37

Dear Dean Eisenhart,

Thank ya so much for yar kind message sent to us through Alan. We were sorry you weren't able to come & stay with us last Summer – but perhaps ya will do so on another visit to England.

My husband & I are expecting to go away about the 3rd March – he to Greece & to Palestine & to be away till almost the end of May. I feel it is not quite fair to leave you without the addres

of some near relation in case any unforeseen emergency should arise in connection with Alan in which you might need to communicate with a member of the family. We shall be so inaccessible that I think it would be advisable to give you the address of our elder son, who is a very reliable person & a solicitor. He is

John F. Turing

Nonington

Jenner Road

Guildford

He has no telephone.

He would act for us or, if there were time, get in touch with you if possible.

Please do not mention this letter to Alan who would wholesomely regard it as fussing! Naturally I hope that the necessity for this address will not arise, but I feel that without it you might be put to a great deal of trouble & anxiety.

We are very happy that Alan should have this splendid opportunity of a year's study at your University. It is a wonderful experience for him.

With kind regards to you all

Yours sincerely

Ethel S. Irving

May 26, 1936

My dear Mr. Turing:

I was interested to hear that you are planning to come to Princeton next year to carry on your studies in Mathematics. There are at present a few unassigned accommodations in the Graduate College, at the price of $700. a year. This charge covers meals and a suite of study and bedroom and a bath, the latter being shared with the occupant of an adjoining suite, and also the laundry with the exception of personal effects.

The question of the category in which you would be enrolled, and what fees you would be charged, if any, will depend upon your plans and the arrangements you have made to come to Princeton.

Sincerely yours,

A. M. Turing, Esq.,
King's College,
Cambridge, England.

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

1201-S

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

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DL = Day Letter
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NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

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Received at Lower Pyne Bldg., Princeton, N. J.

1936 SEP 10 AM 7 20

NAJ44 VIA RCA=CD BROMSGROVEPC 20 SEP 9

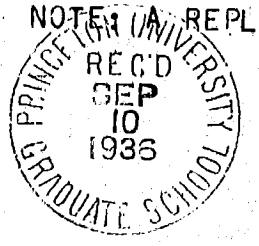
NLT RPFCS6/95 DEAN EISENHART

GRADUATE SCHOOL=PRINCETON (NJ)=

TELEGRAPH ACCEPTANCE AS STUDENT NECESSARY FOR VISA

TURING 8 ENNISMORE AVENUE GUILDFORD ENGLAND.

NOTE: A REPLY UP TO THE AMOUNT OF $1.39 IS PREPAID ON THIS CABLE.



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DOMESTIC		CABLE	
TELEGRAM		FULL RATE	
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NIGHT LETTER		WEEK END LETTER	

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NO.	CASH OR CHG.
CHECK	
TIME FILED	

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

September 10, 1936

TURING,
8 ENNISMORE AVENUE,
GUILDFORD, ENGLAND.

YOU ARE GRANTED ADMISSION TO PRINCETON GRADUATE SCHOOL FOR COMING YEAR. LETTER FOLLOWS.

LUTHER EISENHART, DEAN

Note: A reply up to the amount of $1.39 is prepaid on this cable. Send as cable night letter

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
REC'D
AUG
4
1937
GRADUATE SCHOOL

24 July

KING'S COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE.

Dear Mr Eisenhart,

The American Consulate in London tells me that I shall again need a letter in duplicate giving evidence that I am accepted as a student at Princeton, before I can be readmitted to the U.S. I should be grateful if you would send me such letters: it would be convenient if you would mention at the same time that I have been awarded a Fellowship which will cover all expenses; this would save my obtaining any other evidence about finances,

Yours sincerely

A. M. Turing

Date May 26, 1937.

Mr. A. M. Turing took the General Examination given by the Department of Mathematics on May 25, 1937. In the judgment of the Department he has sustained the examination.

His principal examiners were: Professors Church, Lefschetz and Tucker.

Estimate of the quality of performance of the candidate:

Passed an exceedingly good examination in all subjects in which he was examined.

S. Lefschetz

Departmental Representative.

*If the candidate did not sustain the examination, the Dean of the Graduate School should be so informed by letter.

Date May 31, 1938.

Mr. Alan Mathison Turing was examined orally by the Department of Mathematics on Friday, May 27, 1938. In the judgment of the Department he has sustained the examination, and is hereby recommended for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.*

His principal examiners were: Professors Bohnenblust, Church, and Lefschetz.

Estimate of the quality of performance of the candidate:

The candidate passed an excellent examination, not only in the special field of mathematical logic, but also in other fields.

Departmental Representative.

*If the candidate did not sustain the examination, the Dean of the Graduate School should be so informed by letter.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE BURSAR

No. 3902

DATE 5/18/38

RECEIVED FROM Irving A. Mc $ 10

FOR

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION

Grant for Ph.D.	[illegible]	10	

G. A. MILLS, Bursar

5M—3-37—Form 3

BY

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
OFFICE OF THE BURSAR

No. 3901

DATE 5/18/38

RECEIVED FROM Irving A. Mc $ 50

FOR

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION

Dep. Ph.D. Dissertation	61399	50	

G. A. MILLS, Bursar

5M—3-37—Form 3

BY

Date May 18, 1938.

Mr. A. M. Turing presented to the Department of Mathematics in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy a dissertation with the title:

Systems of logic based on ordinals

Written under the direction of Alonzo Church

The department appointed Professors Alonzo Church and S. Lefschetz to read this dissertation and, after consideration of their report, the Department hereby recommends to the Faculty the acceptance of the dissertation.

Estimate of the dissertation:

The thesis is an able and unusual contribution indicative not only of technical capability but also of considerable insight into the problems treated and appreciation of their relationship to other questions, The central problem is not new, but the negative result is unexpected, and (over)

The department desires to hold the Public Oral Examination of the candidate on Friday, May 27 at 2 P. M. in Fine 103.

S. Lefschetz

Chairman or Departmental Representative.

Before the Public Oral Examination can be authorized, it will be necessary for the candidate to file two copies of his dissertation in the Office of the Graduate School, and also a receipt from the Bursar of the University for the payment of the diploma fee of $10. and the $50. deposit to ensure the publication of the dissertation. The Department is requested to notify the candidate of these conditions.

If these conditions have been met and the desired date is satisfactory, the Department will be notified that it is authorized to hold the Examination.

the methods employed involve essential elements of originality. There are also incidental but noteworthy contributions to the other branches of mathematics, in particular, to analysis.

The Graduate School

Professor S.Lefschetz

The Graduate School

Final public oral examination. May 18,1938

My dear Lefschetz:

Your Department is hereby authorized to conduct the final public oral examination of Mr.Alan Mathison Turing in Room 103 Fine Hall at 2 o'clock Friday,May 27,1938.

Sincerely yours,

February 23, 1937

My dear Mrs. Turing:

Your recent letter concerning your trip has been received. I appreciate fully why you wish to give me the information which your letter contained, and I appreciate your doing so. It is not necessary for me to add that I hope it will not be necessary for me to use it.

We have enjoyed having your son at our house from time to time. Today he gave me a copy of his paper which has just appeared in the Proceedings of the London Mathematical Society. Professor Church speaks very highly of it.

We were sorry that we were unable to see you when we were in England.

With cordial greetings to Mr. Turing and yourself, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. J. M. Turing,
8 Ennismore Avenue,
Guildford, England.

May 18, 1937

My dear Mr. Vice-Chancellor:

Mr. Alan Mathison Turing informs me that he is making application for the Procter Visiting Fellowship to Princeton for next year. No doubt he will have members of our staff who have been in close touch with him write to you and give you an estimate of the quality of his work. I have seen him a number of times. From this experience and what I have learned from those in residence in the Graduate College I think that his personal relations here have been highly satisfactory so that, if after considering the other applications you decide to nominate him, we will be very glad to receive him. However, I do not wish you to interpret this letter as in any way suggesting that he be appointed in preference to any other candidate.

Sincerely yours,

Dean of the Graduate School

The Vice-Chancellor,
University of Cambridge,
Cambridge, England.

From THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY

THE MASTER'S LODGE
CLARE COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

Telephone 3062

27th May 1937.

Dear Mr Dean,

Thank you for your letter about Mr Alan Mathison Turing. I have received his application for the Procter Visiting Fellowship.

Yours sincerely,

A. D. Ward

L.P. Eisenhart, Esq.,
Dean of the Graduate School,
Princeton University.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

REPORT ON EXAMINATION IN FRENCH AND GERMAN

EXTRACT FROM UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

No student intending to proceed to the Doctor's degree who at the end of his first year of graduate study, provided this shall have been taken in Princeton University, has not shown by oral examination that he is able to use either French or German satisfactorily shall be eligible for readmission. No student intending to proceed to the Doctor's degree who at the end of his second year of graduate study, wherever taken, has not shown by oral examination that he is able to use both French and German satisfactorily, shall be allowed to proceed as a graduate student in Princeton University in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Opportunity for examination will be provided in October and also in May. Whenever possible the student should choose the earlier date for his examination in French and German.

This is to certify that on May 20, 1937
(Date)

Mr. A. M. Turing

was tested in his reading knowledge of German
(Language)

and that he satisfactorily sustained this test.

(SIGNED) Fridtjof Bolza

For the Department of Mathematics

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

REPORT ON EXAMINATION IN FRENCH AND GERMAN

EXTRACT FROM UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS

No student intending to proceed to the Doctor's degree who at the end of his first year of graduate study, provided this shall have been taken in Princeton University, has not shown by oral examination that he is able to use either French or German satisfactorily shall be eligible for readmission. No student intending to proceed to the Doctor's degree who at the end of his second year of graduate study, wherever taken, has not shown by oral examination that he is able to use both French and German satisfactorily, shall be allowed to proceed as a graduate student in Princeton University in candidacy for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Opportunity for examination will be provided in October and also in May. Whenever possible the student should choose the earlier date for his examination in French and German.

This is to certify that on May 20, 1937
(Date)

Mr. A. M. Turing

was tested in his reading knowledge of French
(Language)

and that he satisfactorily sustained this test.

(SIGNED) Fridéric Bohnenblust

For the Department of Mathematics

June 9, 1937

My dear Mrs. Turing:

I was pleased to learn that you have returned to your home and are looking forward to having your son with you. We have enjoyed having him here very much, not only for his personal qualifications but for the impression he has made on our men in mathematics.

You have made the kind suggestion that if any of our family are in England I should let you know. My son Churchill is at University College, London, in the Department of Applied Statistics. He is hoping to come up for his Doctor's degree in about a month. I am sure that he would be very glad to see you if you would communicate with him about a meeting.

With much appreciation of your kind thought of us, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Mrs. J. M. Turing,
8 Ennismore Avenue,
Guildford, England.

From THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY

THE MASTER'S LODGE
CLARE COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGE

Telephone 3062

June 25th, 1937.

Dear Mr Dean,

Jane Eliza Procter Visiting Fellowship.

In accordance with the conditions relating to the above Fellowship at Princeton University I hereby recommend Mr Alan Mathison Turing, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, for appointment to the Jane Eliza Procter Visiting Fellowship for the year 1937-1938.

I am, dear Mr Dean,

Yours sincerely,

The Dean of Princeton University,
Princeton,
New Jersey.
U.S.A.

July 8, 1937

My dear Mr. Vice-Chancellor:

Your letter containing the nomination of Mr. Alan Mathison Turing as Jane Eliza Procter Visiting Fellow for the academic year 1937-1938 has just arrived. I am pleased to accept the nomination and will notify Mr. Turing to this effect.

I wish to express my appreciation of what you have done in this connection.

With cordial regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

The Vice-Chancellor,
University of Cambridge,
Cambridge, England.

July 8,1937

My dear Mr.Turing:

I am happy to inform you that on nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University you are appointed Jane Eliza Procter Visiting Fellow for the academic year 1937-1938 for resident study in the Graduate School of Princeton University. The fellowship carries with it free tuition, a suite and meals in the Graduate College and $1,300. The University opens on Tuesday, September 28th, and it is desirable that you arrive here by that date. This letter should be sufficient evidence for the American Consul of your appointment as Procter Visiting Fellow in Princeton University.

Looking forward to seeing you in September, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr.Alan Mathison Turing,
8 Ennismore Avenue,
Guilford,England.

August 4, 1937

My dear Mr. Turing:

I am happy to inform you that on nomination of the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University you are appointed Jane Eliza Procter Visiting Fellow for the academic year 1937-1938 for resident study in the Graduate School of Princeton University. The fellowship carries with it free tuition, a suite and meals in the Graduate College and $1,300. The University opens on Tuesday, September 28th, and it is desirable that you arrive here by that date. This letter should be sufficient evidence for the American Consul of your appointment as Procter Visiting Fellow in Princeton University.

Looking forward to seeing you in September, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Alan Mathison Turing,
King's College,
Cambridge, England.

June 27,1939

My dear Mr.Turing:

The University Library informs me that it has received the copies of your printed doctoral dissertation. I am,therefore,writing to the Bursar,with the request that you be sent a cheque for the fifty dollars which you deposited at the time you took your final public oral examination.

With best personal regards, in which Mrs.Eisenhart joins me, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mr.Alan Mathison Turing,
King's College,
Cambridge,England.