

Epilogue: From Turing's padlocked mug to the present day

Three views of the future of computing:

It seems probable that once the machine thinking method had started, it would not take long to outstrip our feeble powers.... They would be able to converse with each other to sharpen their wits. At some stage therefore, we should have to expect the machines to take control.

Alan Turing¹

The hope is that, in not too many years, human brains and computing machines will be coupled together very tightly, and that the resulting partnership will think as no human brain has ever thought and process data in a new way not approached by the information-handling machines we know today.

J. C. R. Licklider²

Artificial intelligence is the science of making machines do things that would require intelligence if done by men.

Marvin Minsky³

Fig. E.1. Turing is known for his brilliant insights into the fundamentals of computing and his opinions on artificial intelligence. However, his eccentricity has also entered the folklore of computing. This photo was taken at Bletchley Park and shows Turing's desk and the radiator under the window. As can be seen, Turing used to chain his tea mug to the radiator with a padlock so that his colleagues could not "nick" it.



