

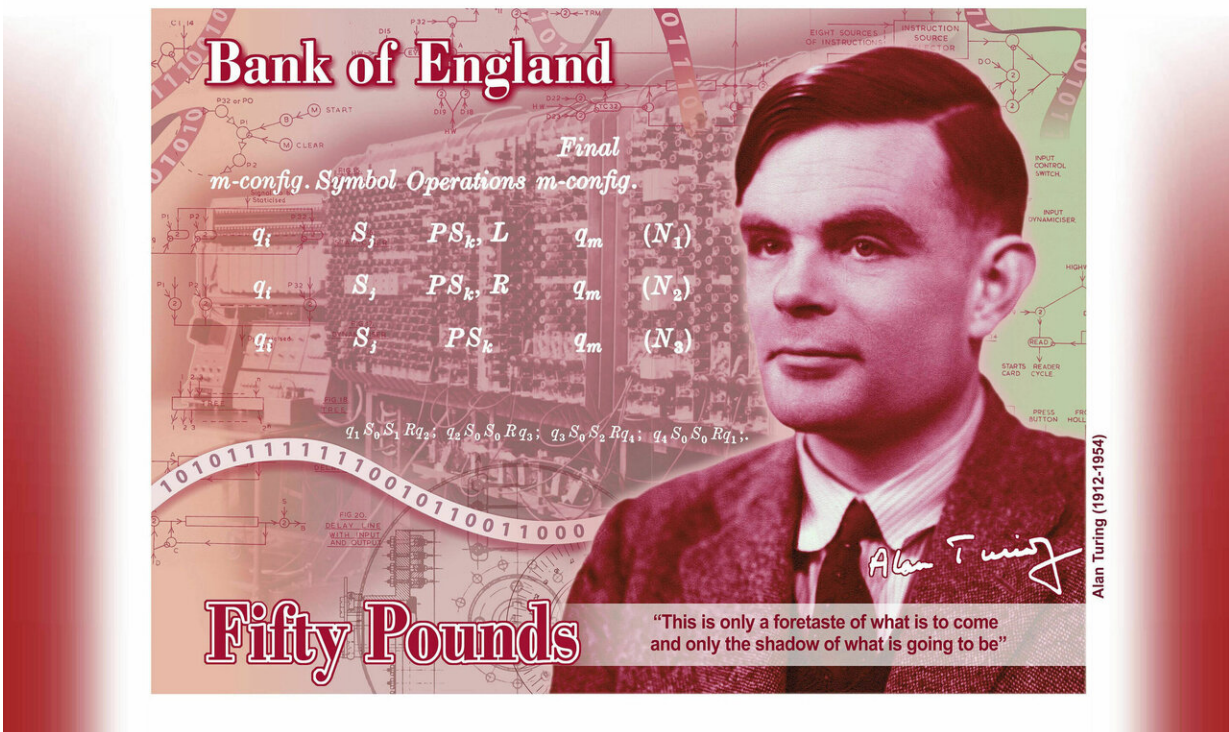
Codebreaker Alan Turing to be face of new British banknote

July 15 2019



BANK OF ENGLAND

Alan Turing Banknote Concept



In this undated handout provided by the Bank of England on Monday, July 15, 2019, a view of the the concept of the new 50 pound note bearing the image of Second World War code-breaker Alan Turing. The Bank of England has chosen codebreaker and computing pioneer Alan Turing as the face of the country's new 50 pound note. Governor Mark Carney said Monday that Turing was "a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand." Turing's work cracking Nazi Germany's

secret communications helped win World War II, but after the war he was prosecuted for homosexuality, and died in 1954 after eating an apple laced with cyanide. (Bank of England via AP)

Codebreaker and computing pioneer Alan Turing has been chosen as the face of Britain's new 50 pound note, the Bank of England announced Monday.

Governor Mark Carney said Turing, who did ground-breaking work on computers and [artificial intelligence](#), was "a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand."

During World War II Turing worked at the secret Bletchley Park code-breaking center, where he helped crack Nazi Germany's secret codes by creating the "Turing bombe," a forerunner of modern computers. He also developed the "Turing Test" to measure artificial intelligence.

After the war he was prosecuted for homosexuality, which was then illegal, and forcibly treated with female hormones. He died at age 41 in 1954 after eating an apple laced with cyanide.

Turing received a posthumous apology from the British government in 2009, and a royal pardon in 2013.

The U.K's highest-denomination note is the last to be redesigned and switched from paper to more secure and durable polymer. The redesigned 10 pound and 20 pound notes feature author Jane Austen and artist J.M.W. Turner.

The Turing banknote will enter circulation in 2021. It includes a photo of the scientist, [mathematical formulae](#) and technical drawings, and a

quote from Turing: "This is only a foretaste of what is to come, and only the shadow of what is going to be."



Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney poses for a photo with the artwork for the concept of the new 50 pound notes, after announcing that Second World War code-breaker Alan Turing has been selected to feature on the new notes, at the Science and Industry Museum, in Manchester, England, Monday July 15, 2019. The Bank of England has chosen codebreaker and computing pioneer Alan Turing as the face of the country's new 50 pound note. Governor Mark Carney said Monday that Turing was "a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand." Turing's work cracking Nazi Germany's secret communications helped win World War II, but after the war he was prosecuted for homosexuality, and died in 1954 after eating an apple laced with cyanide. (Peter Byrne/PA via AP)

Former lawmaker John Leech, who led the campaign for a pardon, said he was "absolutely delighted" by the choice.

"I hope it will go some way to acknowledging his unprecedented contribution to society and science," he said.

"But more importantly I hope it will serve as a stark and rightfully painful reminder of what we lost in Turing, and what we risk when we allow that kind of hateful ideology to win."



Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney speaks, during the announcement that Second World War code-breaker Alan Turing has been selected to feature on the new 50 pound notes, at the Science and Industry Museum, in Manchester, England, Monday July 15, 2019. The Bank of England has chosen codebreaker and computing pioneer Alan Turing as the face of the

country's new 50 pound note. Governor Mark Carney said Monday that Turing was "a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand." Turing's work cracking Nazi Germany's secret communications helped win World War II, but after the war he was prosecuted for homosexuality, and died in 1954 after eating an apple laced with cyanide. (Peter Byrne/PA via AP)



Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney speaks, during the announcement that Second World War code-breaker Alan Turing has been selected to feature on the new 50 pound notes, at the Science and Industry Museum, in Manchester, England, Monday July 15, 2019. The Bank of England has chosen codebreaker and computing pioneer Alan Turing as the face of the country's new 50 pound note. Governor Mark Carney said Monday that Turing was "a giant on whose shoulders so many now stand." Turing's work cracking Nazi Germany's secret communications helped win World War II, but after the war he was prosecuted for homosexuality, and died in 1954 after eating an apple laced with cyanide. (Peter Byrne/PA via AP)

© 2019 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.

Citation: Codebreaker Alan Turing to be face of new British banknote (2019, July 15) retrieved 3 May 2024 from <https://techxplore.com/news/2019-07-codebreaker-alan-turing-british-banknote.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.
