



Invited Speaker



Dr. Jeffry L. Hirst

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“Ada and Alan’s Theoretical Machines”

Monday, March 10, 2014 • Shawkey Room, MSC • 4:00pm



Ada Lovelace
Portrait by Margaret
Sarah Carpenter



Alan Turing
Portrait by Daniel Rogers

Ada Lovelace is often called the first computer programmer, though she died a century before the first general purpose computers were built. This claim is based on the notes she appended to her translation of Menabrea’s 1842 paper, *Notions sur la Machine Analytique de M. Charles Babbage*. Alan Turing is often called the father of theoretical computer science on the basis of his 1936 article *On computable numbers, with an application to the Entscheidungsproblem*. Lovelace’s notes describe Babbage’s Difference Engine and Babbage’s Analytical Engine, and Turing’s paper proves the existence of a Universal Turing Machine. This talk will compare the designs and capabilities of these early theoretical computing machines.