



Cambridge Society for the Application of Research

Churchill College
Storey's Way
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www.csar.org.uk

The Colossus of the Modern World

The Story of the breaking the WW II German Lorenz cipher using an early digital computer, 'Colossus' and the machine's reconstruction at Bletchley Park.

Dr Tony Sale FBCS

7.30 p.m., Monday 18th February 2008

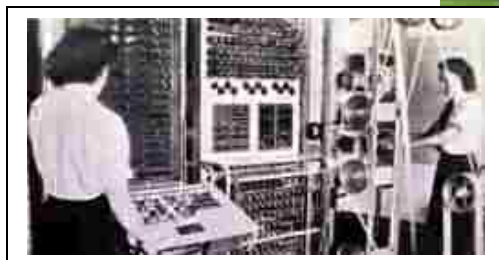
The Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge

Dr Sale writes:

This lecture will describe how the German Lorenz cipher was broken in WW II and tell of the 14 year effort to rebuild a Colossus Mk 2 and research and demonstrate how it was used. I will show video of Colossus working and discuss the speed of Colossus as revealed by last year's Cipher Challenge.

About the Speaker:

Dr Tony Sale is leader of the Colossus Rebuild Project. He helped save Bletchley Park in 1992 and was the first Museums Director. He joined the British Computer Society in 1965, served on Council and has been chairman and secretary of various Specialist Groups. He was Technical Director of the BCS 1986-89. He was elected Hon. Fellow in 1996. He was Manager of the Computer Restoration Project at the Science Museum in London from 1989 -1993.



He is currently Vice-Chairman of the Computer Conservation Society which he founded whilst at the Science Museum. He has lectured widely on WW II Bletchley Park, code breaking and the history of computing. His web site: www.codesandciphers.org.uk is recognised as a prime source of information on WW II code breaking.

Dr Sale received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Lincoln University in 2006 for his rebuilding of Colossus.

The Organising Secretary adds.....

Many of you will have attended the excellent visit we had to Bletchley Park, organised a while ago by Elizabeth Platts. It is a most singular place, and during the War, it kept busy a staff of around 10,000. This is the story of a machine which was at the heart of their code-breaking efforts – an early digital computer. Tony Sale headed up the team which has painstakingly rebuilt it – mainly from the memories of its original designers, I believe (the original blueprints having been destroyed)

Coffee will be available, as usual, in the foyer outside the lecture theatre, from ~7pm onwards

Best Regards

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CSAR Organising Secretary
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