



Alan Turing: Convicted for gross indecency

Video transcript: Clip from *Horizon: The Strange Life and Death of Dr Turing* – produced by Christopher Sykes Productions.

DR NORMAN ROUTLEDGE:

Well in the post there was this letter from Manchester and it was from Alan and it came, I may say, as a great surprise to me. Because although I'd realised that he was gay – and indeed one of his boyfriends used to come to lectures with me – I didn't know that he went picking up rough trade in the streets and getting involved with the police. So I was rather startled.

Here's the letter:

My dear Norman. I've now got myself into the kind of trouble that I've always considered to be quite a possibility for me, though I'd have usually rated it at about 10 to one against.

I shall shortly be pleading guilty to a charge of sexual offences with a young man. The story of how it all came to be found out is a long and fascinating one, which I will have to make into a short story one day, but I haven't time to tell you now.

No doubt I shall emerge from it all a different man, but quite who I've not found out. I'm rather afraid that the following syllogism may be used by some in the future:

Turing believes that machines think

Turing lies with men

Therefore machines do not think

Yours in distress, Alan.