

David Brailsford email description...

As for the Committee I think I have decoded:

(Anthony) Oettinger  
(Sheila) Greibach  
(Hilary) Putnam  
(Manuel) Blum

It would be hard to find (in 1967/8) a more distinguished panel of outright philosophers, Computational linguists, theoretical computer scientists and mathematical logicians

All of them have had some major or minor academic interaction with Harvard in the course of their careers. (what a surprise ... !)

The most purely philosophical would probably be Putnam and the one closest to actual CompSci might be Blum or even Greibach (who did a lot of useful work on top-down parsing). Greibach actually came to the Maths Dept here at Nottingham to give a seminar in the early 1970s and I was there. Wow! . And (committee member) Tony Oettinger was the thesis adviser for her PhD (!)

The one I know least about is Blum but having won the Turing-ACM award he's got nothing left to prove...

What I'm not clear about is whether this committee under Harvard PhD rules (1967) was required to meet in person or did they just exchange views via letter/FAX ?

All I'm saying is that if a committee of this calibre gave Dennis's thesis the Ok then it really *\*was\** OK ....