



BRIEF HISTORY AND LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS
OF ORIGINAL CALLIGRAPHED COPY OF THE
CONSTITUTION OF INDIA
(ENGLISH VERSION)

A Brief History

The original copy of the Constitution of India (English Version) was calligraphed by Shri Prem Behari Narain Raizada of Rampur (an employee of Govan Brothers) on hand made millbourne loan paper 16½"×20½" 36 lbs., imp., 500 sheets, supplied by the Controller of Printing and Stationery, India. Shri Raizada took up the job of calligraphy on 28 November, 1949 and completed it in the last week of April, 1950. A token amount of Rs. 4,000/- only (inclusive of expenses for his lodging and boarding) was paid to Shri Raizada for his dedicated work.

2. The calligraphed sheets were tastefully decorated and illuminated by Shri Nand Lal Bose, the well-known artist of Shantiniketan who completed the job in four years' time. Illustrations were drawn from Indian history beginning from the Mohenjodaro and Vedic periods and covering India's Freedom Movement. The illumination work was done in accordance with the suggestions of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru to have real gold spray on the margins and also to provide illumination in rectangular form all round the space of 8"×13" in the middle of the paper for calligraphy. Shri Bose was paid a sum of Rs. 21,000 only for this rare feat of blending art and history together in the 221 pages of this prestigious document. Parliament Secretariat (the predecessor of the present Lok Sabha Secretariat) took over the project from the Constituent Assembly on 26 January, 1950 and since then has preserved and treasured this monumental document for future generations as a symbol of our nation's achievement.

3. 1,000 offset printed copies were made out from the original calligraphed copy of the Constitution of India by Survey of India, Dehradun, in the year 1955 after 1½ years hard work on this project. The cost of offset printing was Rs. 70,000 only. Another sum of Rs. 25,000 was spent on binding which included, *inter alia*, the following:—

1. Rexine binding with decoration all round;
2. Asoka Seal embossing in gold; and
3. Decorated card board containers for keeping the copies.

4. The original calligraphed copy of the Constitution of India is preserved carefully in a box filled with nitrogen in a scientific manner.

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