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Typewriter Shined, But Seen No More by Angie Turner

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The good old typewriter, which used to be the shining star of each and every office during past days, was phased out due to the advent of computers. Earlier, a person who knew how to use the typewriter was assured of an instant and reputed job. Such was the importance of knowing how to use the typewriter. Everyone despite being a graduate would be making sure to train themselves in typewriting.

However, the golden period which saw the early electric models in 1900s and a rule of near to a century finally ended with in the 1990s. In fact, in the 70s and 80s itself, the transition of the typewriters had begun. It was the IBM typewriter selling its unit in the 90s that sounded the end of the typewriter. And by 2000 there was hardly any company manufacturing it. This was the period when the computers were displacing the typewriters in every desk.

However, it was used in few offices in the US till 2009. But, in 2011, Godrej, the only company to manufacture typewriters then, too shut shop. The workhorse that was once described by Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as the symbol of nation's emerging independence is soon going to be a thing of the past. But it was not to be seen anymore, but certainly not dead.

The typewriter has not seen many modifications in the last half-a-century. One of the remarkable changes seen in a typewriter was from the IBM stable â€“ it was the selectric typewriters. The specialty about the selectric was that it used the 'Golfball' that rotated and swiveled to the right spot before hitting, thus replacing the traditional font. It was able to make an impression on the paper faster than anything till date. IBM's Selectric typewriters are going to be 51 years old.

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