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# Photographs of Hampi, India

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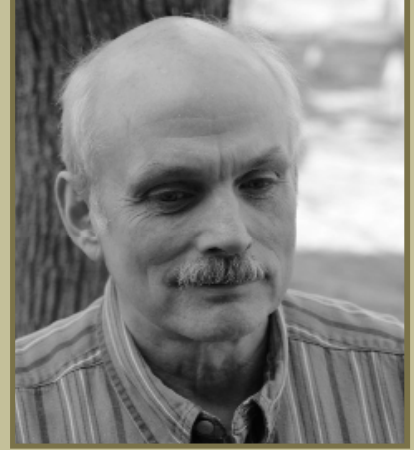
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# *Hampi, India*

by Roger Dunn



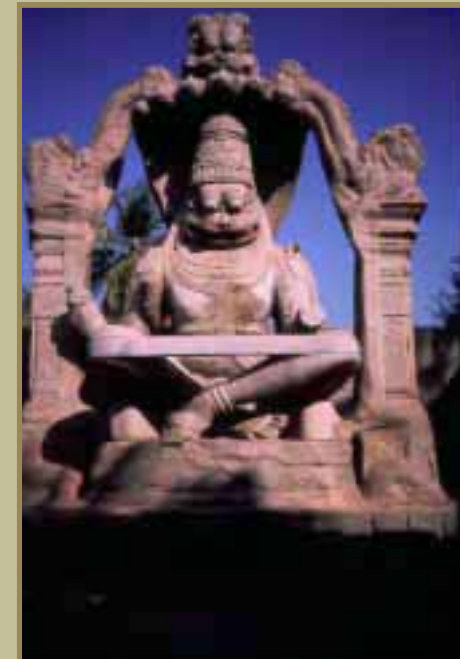
**D**uring my sabbatical in the Spring 2004 semester, I spent a month traveling in India, including the southern town of Hampi, set within a landscape of massive rock ledges and boulders. While the name of Hampi refers to a modern town, it is also used to identify the encompassing ruins of a capital city that flourished from the early 14th century until 1565, when northern invaders ransacked the city and massacred most of its inhabitants. During the 230 years prior to the invasion it was known as Vijayanagara, the City of Victory, and was the center of a Hindu empire. It also prospered through international trade, and was a very cosmopolitan city. The powerful Vijayanagarans adorned their capital with vast temple complexes, bazaars, shrines, and a sprawling royal quarter. Intricately carved sculptural imagery covers and fills many of the architectural works, which survive in great number.



*A temple courtyard,  
looking back toward the gateway.*



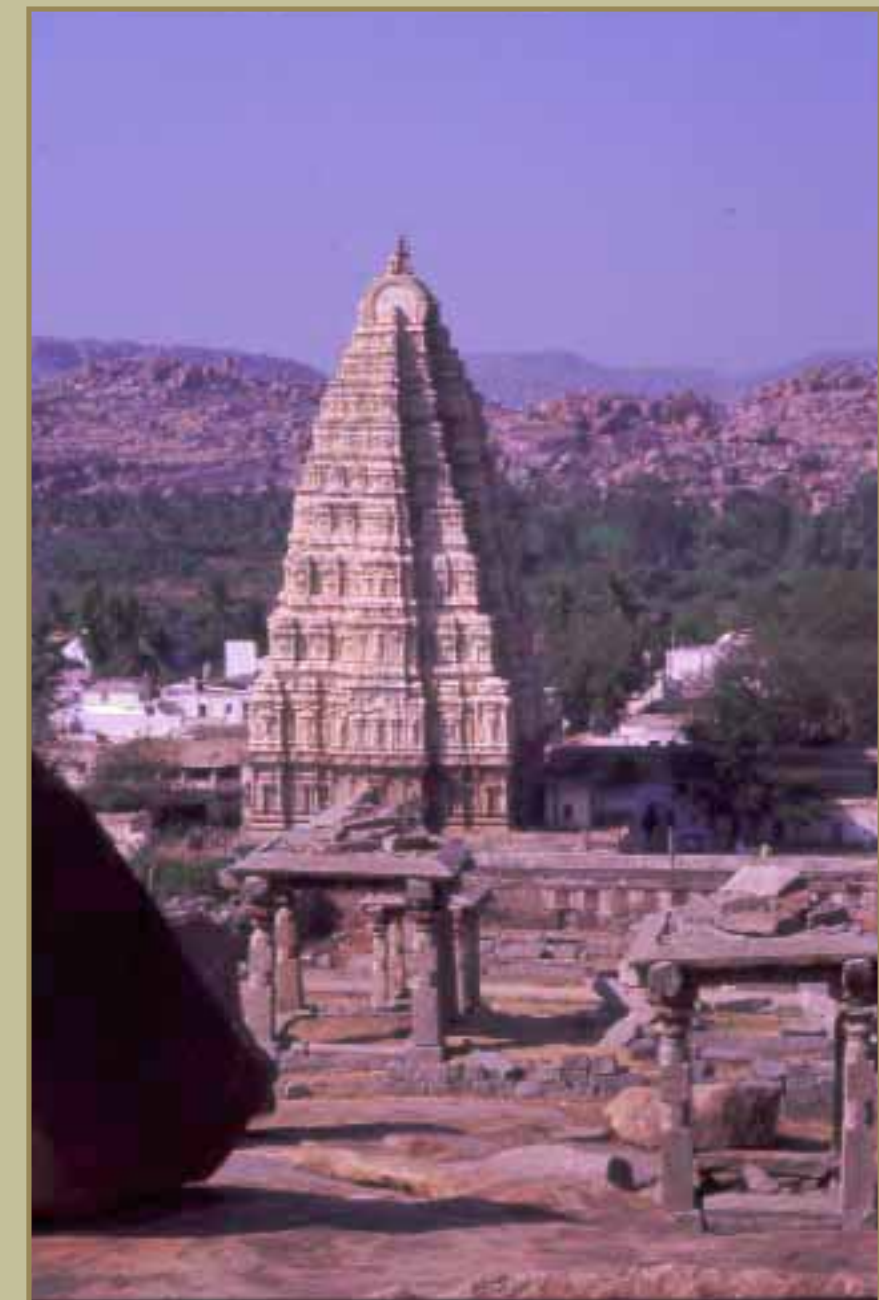
*A view* of a large temple complex with smaller shrines in the foreground.



*An open air shrine* is dominated by a statue of Narasima, a lion-headed incarnation of the god Vishnu, who destroyed an evil tyrant.



*A shrine* at the top of one of the hills of Hampi.



*The tower rising up* from a temple complex marks the location of the sanctuary, the most holy place. This temple continues in use today.



*Within the Royal Quarters,*  
this deep stepped pool was supplied  
with water by an aqueduct.

*Arches from  
the Queen's  
summer pavilion,*  
called the Lotus Mahal.  
A water system within the  
foundations kept the stones  
cool in the hot summer.

