

**ARCHAEOLOGY BOOKS**

Anila Verghese, *Vijayanagara (Hampi), A World Heritage Site*, Oxford University Press, New Delhi (mss 1999)

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Anila Verghese, *Archaeology, Art and Religion, New Perspectives on Vijayanagara*, New Delhi, Oxford University Press, 2000.

This richly illustrated volume presents eighteen hitherto unpublished papers, based on archaeological data, on various aspects of Vijayanagara life, archaeology, architectural history, sculpture, religion and social life.

A detailed study is presented about Hampi. Vijayanagara was a major archaeological site in the sub-continent in the twentieth century. The evolution of the city and its temple architectural styles are discussed. Among the religious cults and traditions examined are those of Virupaksha, the patronal God of the city, the folk-diety Mailara, the fertility goddess Lajjagauri and the worship of the Alvars and Acharyas. The practice of sati is examined exhaustively. Small temples, not studied before, such as those of Prata Vitthala and Harihara, as well as certain architectural innovations are also taken up for analysis. Various themes present in Vijayanagara sculpture find their place in this section. Dance and music in the city and certain facets of the preparation and distribution of food are also discussed. The book concludes with a paper on how the Tungabhadra river was crossed at the site.