

Yorke Rowan

During this academic year, several new publications appeared by newly appointed Research Associate **Yorke Rowan**. “The Chalcolithic Period of the Southern Levant: A Synthetic Review” (with J. Golden) appeared as an entire issue of the *Journal of World Prehistory* (issue 22: 1–92), providing the first comprehensive synthesis of the period in over twenty years. In addition, he edited (with J. Ebeling) *New Approaches to Old Stones: Recent Studies of Ground Stone*

Artifacts (London, Equinox); Rowan and Ebeling also wrote the introductory chapter, “The Potential of Ground Stone Studies.” Two other volumes were submitted to reviewers; one, co-edited with J. Lovell (Director of the Kenyon Institute in Jerusalem), *Culture, Chronology and the Chalcolithic: Theory and Transition*, the result of a workshop organized by the editors for the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) meetings in Madrid, will be published by the Council for British Research in the Levant as part of their Levant Supplementary Series. The other volume, *Beyond Belief: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual* will appear as part of the Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropology Association.

Rowan participated in two major conferences, the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) annual meeting and the inaugural Department of Antiquities of Jordan Prehistory Conference in Amman, Jordan, in May 2009. At ASOR, he completed his third and final year as co-chair of the Annual Meetings Program Committee and presented a paper entitled “Southern Levantine and Predynastic Egyptian Connections: Evidence for Late 5th–early 4th Millennium Relations” in the Prehistory Session.

In Amman, he presented two papers: “Maitland’s Mesa: A Basalt Capped Plateau in the Eastern Badia of Jordan” and “The Necropolis at Wisad Pools, Eastern Badia,” both co-authored with G. Rollefson and A. Wasse. Also with Rollefson and Wasse, Rowan co-authored “Images of the Environment: Rock Art and the Exploitation of the Jordanian Badiah,” concerning research at Wisad Pools, a necropolis with a concentration of rock art in the basalt desert of eastern Jordan. This appeared in the Department of Antiquities new publication, *Journal of Epigraphy and Rock Drawings* (issue 2: 17–51). In June 2009, Rowan and Rollefson returned to Wisad Pools for a second field season to map major structures, primarily tower tombs, cairns, and enclosures in the central area around the pools. Lastly, his review of *More than Meets the Eye: Studies on Upper Paleolithic Diversity in the Near East*, edited by A. Nigel Goring-Morris and A. Belfer-Cohen (2003) appeared in the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies* (issue 68/2: 109–10).

In August, Rowan visited Israel for preliminary archaeological site visits with colleagues, in order to plan the new Oriental Institute research initiative in the Lower Galilee. Visits to Chalcolithic (ca. 4500–3600 B.C.) sites narrowed the possible choices for the Oriental Institute field research project. During a follow-up visit, the site Marj Rabba (Har ha-Sha’avi, west) was chosen for initial excavations in a regional investigation of Chalcolithic sites. En route to Tel Aviv, a week was spent on the island of Koufinissi in the Cyclades working with geologist John Dixon on the final report of ground-stone material from Keros, the Early Bronze Age site recently excavated by Colin Renfrew’s team (during 2006–08).
