

Yorke M. Rowan

During July–August 2010, **Yorke M. Rowan** co-directed (with Morag Kersel) the second season of excavations at the Chalcolithic (4500–3600 BC) site of Marj Rabba, in the lower Galilee, Israel (see separate report). The excavations exposed rectilinear stone architecture, possible remains of silos, and evidence for domesticated pigs, sheep, goat, and cattle at the site. In addition, Yorke co-directed (with Gary Rollefson and Morag Kersel) an exploratory survey and recording at the site of Maitland’s Mesa in the *badia* of eastern Jordan. A brief article on their work, “Maitland’s ‘Mesa’ Reassessed: A Late Prehistoric Cemetery in the Eastern Badia, Jordan” was published in *Antiquity* (85/327, <http://php.york.ac.uk/org/antiquity/projgall.php>). The general research project in the eastern desert of Jordan, “Desert Monuments to the Dead: Views of the Early Pastoral Lifeways in Jordan’s Eastern Desert,” co-authored with Rollefson and Alex Wasse, also appeared in the *American Center for Oriental Research Newsletter* 22/1 (available online at www.acorjordan.org).

Culture, Chronology and the Chalcolithic: Theory and Transition, a volume co-edited with Jaimie Lovell, was published by Oxbow for the Council for British Research in the Levant Supplementary Series and includes an introductory chapter by Rowan and Lovell.

Yorke’s review of *The Archaeology of Ritual*, by E. Kyriakidis, appeared in *Near Eastern Archaeology* 73/4 (2010): 254–55.

Yorke participated in a number of conferences during the academic year. In November, at the annual ASOR (American Schools of Oriental Research) meetings in Atlanta, he presented a paper about the Oriental Institute’s excavations at Marj Rabba, “Marj Rabba: Excavation of a Chalcolithic Settlement in the Galilee.” Also at the ASOR meetings he co-authored a paper with G. Rollefson, A. Wasse, and M. Kersel titled “Mr. Big: Honoring Leaders of Late Prehistoric Pastoral Societies in Jordan’s Eastern Badia.” In addition, Rollefson, Kersel, and Rowan presented a poster on their research in the eastern desert of Jordan, “Living with the Dead: Mortuary Landscapes in the Badlands of Jordan.” Yorke also served as chair at the ASOR

meetings for the session “Reports on Current Excavations and Surveys, Non-ASOR Affiliated,” and continued with other committee work for ASOR. This year he was elected to the Board of Trustees of the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem.

At the annual meetings for the Society for American Archaeology, held in Sacramento, Yorke presented a paper with M. Kersel, titled “Deconstructing the Holy Land: Cultural Heritage, Archaeology, Tourism and the Miniature.” Yorke was invited to present a lecture to the Archaeological Institute of American in Milwaukee in May titled, “Death’s Dominion during the Chalcolithic Period in the Southern Levant.” In addition, he was invited to present a lecture to an avocational archaeology society in Sarasota, Florida, “Death’s Dominion: Excavating Religion and Ritual at the End of Prehistory.”

With Gil Stein and Abbas Alizadeh, Yorke received a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation to organize an international group of scholars for a workshop, Pathways to Power: The Emergence of Political Authority and Hierarchy in the 6th–5th Millennia BC; Near East-Comparative Perspectives, to be held at the Oriental Institute in fall 2011.
