

Yorke M. Rowan

During July–August 2011, **Yorke M. Rowan** continued to direct (with Morag Kersel) research at the site of Marj Rabba, in the lower Galilee, a Chalcolithic (ca. 4500–3600 BC) site. This third season included geophysical and site survey in addition to the expanded excavation area of this prehistoric village. Yorke also directed, with Gary Rollefson, survey and excavations at the late prehistoric site of Wisad Pools, in the eastern desert of Jordan. A short article concerning one aspect of this research, “A Late Neolithic Dwelling at Wisad Pools, Black Desert,” co-authored with G. Rollefson and M. Perry, appeared in the 2011 issue of *Neo-Lithics* (11/1: 35–43).

Yorke’s edited volume, *Beyond Belief: The Archaeology of Religion and Ritual*, was published in the series Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropology Association. In addition to the volume’s introduction, Yorke contributed a chapter with David Ilan entitled “Deconstructing and Recomposing the Narrative of Spiritual Life in the Chalcolithic of the Southern Levant (4500–3600 B.C.E.)” (pp. 89–113).

Other written contributions focused on studies of ground artifacts, including (with Thomas E. Levy) “Prestige vs. Pragmatic Production: Transitions in Macehead Manufacture in the Ancient Levant” published in the volume *Daily Life, Materiality and Complexity in Early Urban Communities of the Southern Levant: Papers in Honor of Walter E. Rast and R. Thomas Schaub*, edited by Meredith S. Chesson et al., pp. 119–218 (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2011) and (with Rachel Ben-Dov) “Basalt Vessels and Ground Stones,” in *Dan III. Avraham Biran Excavations 1966–1999. The Late Bronze Age*, edited by Rachel Ben-Dov, pp. 335–44 (Jerusalem: Annual of the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology, 2011). In addition, he published the chapter on ground stone in *Ashkelon 3: The Seventh Century BC. Final Report of the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon* edited by Lawrence E. Stager, Daniel M. Master, and J. David Schloen, pp. 55–80 (Winona Lake: Eisenbrauns, 2011).

In the fall, the international conference organized by Gil Stein, Abbas Alizadeh, and Yorke and funded in part by a grant from the Wenner-Gren Foundation took place over two days. Pathways to Power: The Emergence of Political Authority and Hierarchy in the 6th–5th Millennia BC, Near Eastern Comparative Perspectives was held in Breasted Hall. In the spring, Yorke participated in the Ninth Annual Oriental Institute Post-Doctoral Seminar, entitled Heaven on Earth: Temple Topography, Ritual Practice, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World, organized by Deena Ragavan.

At the annual meeting of the American Schools of Oriental Research in San Francisco, Yorke presented “Mortals in the Land of Conjecture: Mortuary Practices at Wisad Pools, Eastern Jordan” (with G. Rollefson and M. Perry), “Excavation and Survey at Marj Rabba: A Chalcolithic Settlement in the Lower Galilee” (with M. Kersel), as well as a poster on Geophysical Investigations at Marj Rabba, a Chalcolithic Site in the Lower Galilee, Israel, with T. Urban, M. Kersel, and A. C. Hill. With co-authors Rollefson, Kersel, and Perry, he presented “But It’s a Dry Heat. Really? Recent Research into the Late Neolithic Exploitation of the Badia

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in Eastern Jordan” at the International Congress on the Archaeology of the Ancient Near East (ICAANE) in Warsaw.

In tandem with colleagues in the Department of Archaeology, Yorke continues to serve as the faculty director-in-residence for the Interdisciplinary Archaeology Workshop. He also continues to serve on various boards, including the editorial board for the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research*, the Nelson Glueck School of Biblical Archaeology Reports, and the Open Context of the Alexandria Archive Institute.
