

Yorke M. Rowan

In July–August 2009, **Yorke M. Rowan** began a new field project in Israel, excavations at Marj Rabba (see separate report). Marj Rabba is a prehistoric site roughly dating to the mid-fifth to early fourth millennium BC, commonly termed the Chalcolithic period. These excavations seek to understand how the people in the Galilee differed in terms of social, political, and economic organization in contrast to other regions such as the Golan, Jordan Valley, and Negev, where

most excavations of Chalcolithic sites have taken place. This initial season indicates that the site is well preserved and possibly more extensive than originally projected.

Yorke participated in a number of national and international conferences during the academic year. In August, he attended the World Archaeology Inter-congress meetings held in Ramallah, for which he served on the organizing committee and co-organized (with Morag Kersel) the session Looting, Landscape and Law. In September, he and David Ilan presented the paper “Reconstituting the Dead: Ossuaries in the Chalcolithic of the Southern Levant” at the Annual Meetings of the European Association of Archaeologists in Riva del Garda, Italy. In November, he presented “Between Household and Landscape: Searching for Chalcolithic Communities” in the session Archaeology of Prehistoric Communities, Theoretical Concerns: The Placing and Spacing of Prehistoric Communities, which he co-organized with Meredith Chesson for the Annual Meetings of the American Schools of Oriental Research held in New Orleans. With Morag Kersel, he presented “It’s a Small World After All: Tourism and Representation of the Past at Mini-Israel” for a session on Tourism, Archaeology and Development at the Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association held in Philadelphia in December.

In January 2010, Yorke was invited to participate in the Centre national de la recherche scientifique–sponsored workshop Electronic Publications and Knowledge Bases: Grinding Material as a Case Study, held at the Institut National d’Histoire de l’Art in Paris, where he presented a lecture entitled “Diachronic Change in Late Prehistoric Ground Stone Assemblage from the Southern Levant.” Also related to his interest in analyses of ground-stone artifacts, Yorke was invited to serve as a discussant for the session Understanding the Uses of Ground Stone Tools: New Directions and Developments held on April 17 at the Annual Meetings of the Society for American Archaeology held in St. Louis. In March, he was invited to present his ideas concerning prehistoric interactions between the Levant and Egypt at a brown-bag lunch at the Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World at Brown University, where he gave the lecture “Crossing the Nile: Early Evidence for Levantine and Egyptian Interaction.”

During February, Yorke hosted Ofer Marder, head of the Prehistory Branch of the Israel Antiquities Authority, who was visiting the Oriental Institute in order to study the Megiddo flint assemblage as part of the Megiddo Stages Publication Project directed by Eliot Braun. Yorke also acted as a moderator for Israelite Archaeology and Contemporary Israeli Identity: Reconstructions of Modern Antiquity in Modern Israel, a conference organized by David Schloen and Josef Stern (director, Center for Jewish Studies), held at the Oriental Institute on April 30.

With co-editor Jaimie Lovell, Yorke submitted the manuscript for “Culture, Chronology and the Chalcolithic: Theory and Transition” to the copy editor. Yorke also has published his review of *Stone Vessels in the Levant*, by Rachael T. Sparks, in *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* 358: 76–77, and his co-authored chapter (with J. Forsen) “Ground Stone and Small Artifacts from Area C” appeared in the volume *Khirbat Iskandar: Final Report on the Early Bronze IV Area C “Gateway” and Cemeteries*, edited by Suzanne Richard, Jesse Lang, Paul Holsdorf, and Glen Peterman, pp. 145–58 (Archaeological Reports 14; Boston: American Schools for Oriental Research, 2010).
