

Yorke Rowan

During July–August 2012, **Yorke Rowan** directed the fourth season of excavations at the Chalcolithic (ca. 4500–3600 BC) site in the lower Galilee (see *Marj Rabba* report). As noted in the *2011–2012 Annual Report*, geophysical studies were conducted at Marj Rabba in 2011 by Thomas Urban (Oxford); the initial results of the ground-penetrating radar were presented in *Antiquity* (86/334 [December 2012]; online at <http://antiquity.ac.uk/projgall/rowan334>). Evidence for extensive architecture supports the survey results indicating that the site extends across the fields to the north and south of the open excavation areas. Yorke presented “Marj Rabba: A Chalcolithic Settlement in the Lower Galilee” (with Kersel, Hill, Price, Shalem, and Jackson) at the annual American School of Oriental Research meetings in Chicago (November 2012).

In the broader context of ancient ritual and the Chalcolithic period in the southern Levant, Yorke published two monograph chapters. One was the published version of his paper, “Sacred Space and Ritual Practice at the End of Prehistory in the Southern Levant” presented at the annual Oriental Institute Seminar, *Heaven on Earth: Temples, Ritual, and Cosmic Symbolism in the Ancient World*, edited by Deena Ragavan, pp. 259–83 (Oriental Institute Seminars 9; Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2013). The other chapter, “The Subterranean Landscape of the Southern Levant during the Chalcolithic Period,” co-authored with David Ilan (Hebrew Union College) and appearing in *Sacred Darkness: A Global Perspective on the Ritual Use of Caves*, edited by Holley Moyes, pp. 87–108 (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2013), concerns death and the use of underground space during the Chalcolithic period. At the annual meetings of the Archaeological Institute of America, he presented “Evidence for South Levantine Long-distance Interactions during the Fourth Millennium B.C.E.”

The Eastern Badia Project, co-directed with Gary Rollefson (Whitman College), continued survey and excavation work around the black-topped mesa known as Maitland’s Mesa (M-4). This included excavation of a structure, previously posited to be similar to a *nawamis* – fourth-millennium BC tombs known from the Sinai. Rather than a mortuary structure, this was apparently for habitation. The corbelled building, constructed of massive basalt slabs and modified at least twice, dates to the Late Neolithic and was published in *Neo-Lithics* (1/12 [2013]), “A 7th Millennium B.C. Late Neolithic Village at Mesa 4 in the Wadi al-Qattafi, Eastern Jordan,” with Wasse and Rollefson. Both Eastern Badia projects (Maitland’s Mesa and Wisad Pools) were summarized in “Archaeology of Jordan” in the *American Journal of Archaeology* (116/4 [2012]: 711–13). In “Archaeology at the Margins,” a session Yorke organized with Jaimie Lovell for the World Archaeology Congress in Jordan (2013), he presented (with Rollefson and Wasse) “Little Houses on the Prairie: Jordan’s Eastern Badia in the Late 7th Millennium B.C.”

In the journal *Heritage and Society* (5/2 [2012]: 199–220), Yorke published with Morag Kersel (DePaul) “Beautiful, Good, Important and Special: Cultural Heritage, Archaeology, Tourism and the Miniature in the Holy Land,” a study of Mini-Israel, a theme park in Israel. Yorke also published reviews of two books; one of *Socio-Economic Aspects of Chalcolithic (4500–3500 B.C.) Societies in the Southern Levant: A Lithic Perspective* by Sorin Hermon (BAR International Series

1744; Oxford: Archaeopress, 2008) in the *Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research* (365 [2012]: 82–84); and the other, for the *Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient* (56 [2013]: 107–10) of *Metals, Nomads and Culture Contact: The Middle East and North Africa* (London: Equinox, 2010) by Nils Anfinset.
