

Yorke Rowan

In 2013, **Yorke Rowan** returned to Wisad Pools as part of the Eastern Badia Archaeological Project, a survey and excavation research program focused on two regions in the Black Desert of eastern Jordan sponsored by the Oriental Institute and Whitman College. Co-authored with Gary Rollefson and Alexander Wasse, “Neolithic Settlement at Wisad Pools, Black Desert, Jordan” reports on the excavations of W-80, a large corbelled basalt structure dated to the Neolithic which appeared in *Neo-Lithics* (1/13: 11–23; also see *Eastern Badia Archaeological Project*, in this report). Soon after, Yorke directed the fifth season of excavations at the Chalcolithic (ca. 4500–3600 BC) site in the lower Galilee (see *Marj Rabba* report). Research results from Marj Rabba appeared during this year, including the results of the geophysical survey conducted in 2011 and co-authored with Thomas Urban and Morag Kersel, which were published in the *Journal of Archaeological Science* (46: 96–106), and a study of animal management with Price, Buckley, and Kersel in *Paléorient* (39/2: 183–200). A summary of the first three field seasons, “New Perspectives on the Chalcolithic Period in the Galilee: Investigations at the Site of Marj Rabba” was co-authored with Kersel and appeared in *Material Culture Matters: Essays on the Archaeology of the Southern Levant in Honor of Seymour Gitin*, edited by Spencer, Brody, and Mullins, pp. 221–37 (Eisenbrauns, 2014). On behalf of the Marj Rabba team, Yorke also presented a lecture at the Annual Meetings of American Schools of Oriental Research in Baltimore.

In other publications, Yorke co-authored with John Dixon and Robyn Dubicz “The Ground Stone Assemblage from Dhaskalio” in *The Settlement at Dhaskalio: The Sanctuary on Keros and the Origins of Aegean Ritual Practice; The Excavations of 2006–2008*, Vol. 1, edited by Renfrew, Philaniotou, Brodie, Gavalas, and Boyd, pp. 557–95 (Cambridge: McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, 2013). He also contributed “The Southern Levant (Cisjordan) during the Chalcolithic Period” to *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of the Levant (ca. 8000–332 BCE)*, edited by Steiner and Killebrew, pp. 217–30 (Oxford, 2014). Yorke wrote a foreword to *Barda Balka* by Bruce Howe, Oriental Institute Communications 31, pp. xi–xvii, (Chicago: The Oriental Institute, 2014). He also reviewed *The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Ritual and Religion*, by Timothy Insoll, for *Near Eastern Archaeology* (77/2: 146–48).

As part of an exhibit dedicated to the Chalcolithic, Yorke spoke at the Masters of Fire: Copper Age Art from Israel show organized by the Institute for Studies of the Ancient World, New York University. In addition to his lecture, he contributed a chapter titled “The Mortuary Process in the Chalcolithic Period” to the exhibit catalog, pp. 101–13, edited by Sebanne, Misch-Brandl, and Master (Institute for the Study of the Ancient World and Princeton University Press, 2014).

From September 2013 to June 2014, Yorke was the National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow at the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem. His fellowship time was dedicated to the publication of the Marj Rabba project, although some time was spent organizing and studying material from the Tel Yaqush project, an Oriental

Institute legacy project, which Yorke is coordinating for publication. During the year, Yorke gave lectures at al-Quds University (Abu Dis), Ben-Gurion University (Beersheva), and in Jerusalem, at the Kenyon Institute, the University of the Holy Land, and the Albright Institute. He also mentored interns from Columbia University, Oberlin College, and Wooster College. Students from Wooster and Columbia will be joining the team excavating Marj Rabba during the 2014 season.
