The Mar'angan Mikhail Ancient Ship Replica

Thousands of documented vessels have been found in the Mediterranean Sea over the years. Because of the destructive power of the sea, only a few wooden fragments of such vessels have been discovered. In a limited number of locations have they been excavated. In 1988 and 1989, a team of marine archaeologists and technical personnel from the Leon Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies excavated the site. They were joined by nautical archaeologists from Israel and abroad. The overall project was conducted in cooperation with the Nautical College at Akko, the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Jewish National Fund. Haifa researchers, graduate students and volunteers took part in the various aspects of the project. The entire project was headed by the late Professor Yaacov Kahanov from the Recanati Institute for Maritime Studies, University of Haifa, and conducted in cooperation with the Nautical College at Akko, the Israel Antiquities Authority and the Jewish National Fund.

The research project has attracted the generous support of our research sponsors and supporters. Special appreciation is due to the following:

- Lord Anthony and Lady Evelyn Jacobs of London
- The late Mrs. Sara Arenson, founder of the Adam and Yam Institute, together with her late husband, Avi Arenson
- Dedicated friends, including the late Mrs. Sara Arenson, founder of the Adam and Yam Institute, together with her late husband, Avi Arenson
- Prof. René Sabella, a distinguished marine archaeologist from France, who served as consultant for the project
- The research project has had the honor of receiving generous support from the Lord Anthony and Lady Evelyn Jacobs Foundation

The research sponsors have funded the entire project and enabled the completion of a full-scale replica of the ancient ship, the Ma'agan Mikhail. The project was made possible thanks to the generous support of Lord Anthony and Lady Evelyn Jacobs of London.

The Ma'agan Mikhail Ancient Ship Replica

The ship, a great portion of the hull, was found to have been beached for preservation with its lower structure completely intact. It included the keel, many of its planks, 14 frames, the mast-step and other internal components of the hull. The Anchor discovered near the bow is a surprising number of organic materials such as preserved wooden organisms. A great portion of the hull was found to be extraordinarily well preserved, with its intact timbers, beams and planks providing unique insights into marine life of the time. The numerous parts of the hull and the high quality of its preservation provide unique knowledge about the methods and means of construction used by ancient shipwrights.

The building of the ancient ship is consistent with the academic agenda of the University of Haifa, advancing basic and applied research.