

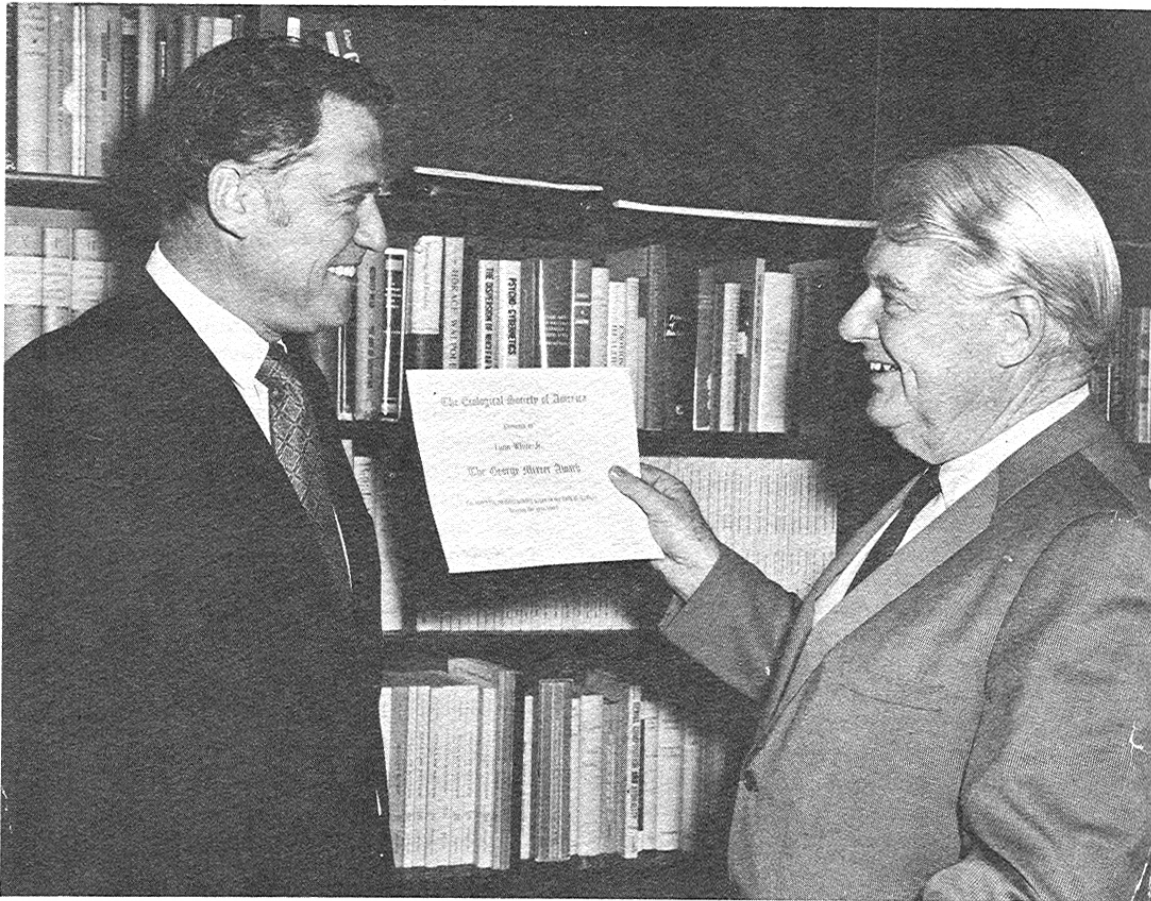
## mercer award for 1969

The George Mercer Award for 1969 was awarded to Dr. Lynn T. White, jr. for his paper "The Historical Roots of our Ecological Crisis" which appeared in *Science* 155 pages 1203-1207, 1967.

This award was announced at the Annual Banquet of the Society in Bloomington, Indiana on August 25, 1970. The prize of \$100 goes with this award. The George Mercer Award was established in 1948 by a member of the Ecological Society of America in honor of a young naturalist and ecologist who was killed in World War I. Its purpose is "to encourage others to publish papers comparable with those it is reasonable to suppose he would have published if he had lived." The Award is made each year to a young man who in the previous two years, has published an outstanding paper in ecology.

Lynn White came to his interest in ecology through study of the history of technology during the Middle Ages and Renais-

sance. As a graduate student at Harvard, he was introduced to medieval science by Charles H. Haskins, but was dissatisfied with Haskins' indifference to the question *why* our medieval ancestors about 1100 so suddenly became interested in natural phenomena. From sitting at the feet of Reinhold Niebuhr at Union Theological Seminary he had come to feel that such questions must be answered in terms of changes in the basic presuppositions of a culture. While teaching at Princeton, and then at his alma mater Stanford, he was drawn to medieval technology. His research was slowed by fifteen years as president of Mills College, but in 1958 he became professor of medieval history at UCLA, and in 1962 published *Medieval Technology and Social Change*. He is a past president of the Society for the History of Technology, and is now president of the History of Science Society.



Dr. Lynn T. White, jr., (right) professor of history at UCLA, accepts the 1969 George Mercer Award from UCLA's Chancellor Charles E. Young, acting on behalf of the Ecological Society of America.