

*Science & Technology***SAVAGES AND SCIENTISTS:
The Smithsonian Institution
and the Development of
American Anthropology,
1846-1910**

by Curtis M. Hinsley
Smithsonian, 1981
319 pp. \$19.95

Between the Smithsonian Institution's founding in 1846 and the death in 1902 of John Wesley Powell, one of its most celebrated scientist-administrators, the nation's museum was the driving force in the development of American anthropology. As they studied American Indian languages, beliefs, social organization, and technologies, James Mooney, W. J. McGee, Matilda Stevenson, and other old-fashioned generalists, soldier-intellectuals, and missionaries sought above all to confirm their beliefs in the sacred unity of an evolving Nature. Their ideas often had practical consequences, notably for the effort by educators and missionaries to draw Indians into the rest of American society. In this first thorough study of American anthropology, Hinsley, a Colgate historian, concludes that Powell's Bureau of American Ethnology was a response to the times—the product of booming material progress, spiritual malaise, and unquestioning trust in evolutionary ideas. There has been a loss as well as a gain in the transition to 20th-century expertise. The old anthropology was addressed to the whole American nation, not only to a “well-defined academic peer group.” It was inspired by moral and religious commitments, bent on constructing a unified science of humanity that would itself help bring about the future “generalized race.” It was also an “exercise in self-study,” seeking to explain and justify the “wide disparities in human conditions, past, present, and future.”

**THE OXFORD
COMPANION TO
ANIMAL BEHAVIOR**
edited by David McFarland
Oxford, 1982
657 pp. \$29.95

Do animals suffer from boredom, use language, live longer in or out of captivity? Are carnivorous species more or less prone to cannibalism than other species? And what is the evolutionary significance of animal hypnosis? Providing answers to these and hundreds of other related mysteries, ethology—the study of animal behavior—has been par-