

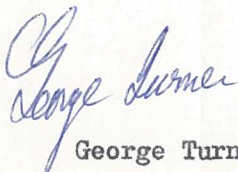
12 Nov 1982.

Dear John,

Thank you for your very heartening review of 'Vaneglory' in Overland 89. You are the first reviewer here or in England to cotton on to the timor vitae expressed as desperation and pressure, leading always to decisions rather than understandings. All the in-group reviewers looked at the characters and the technical gimmicks and missed the novel itself; I have thought for a long time that the in-group reader switches automatically to a 'sf wavelength' and is then unable to look at a novel as being more than a genre exercise; he can't catch the idea of the genre format being used instead of merely followed.

I'm afraid the third volume won't show much from the point of view of the masses; I had something of the sort in mind but became involved one night in a pacifist argument to the extent of pointing out that the fighting soldier is not a monster but 'the boy next door trying to retain his humanity under inhuman circumstances'. One thing led to another and that is what the third volume came to be about, with the Ethical Culture daily less sure of the historical validity of its premises and unwillingly recognising that secret violence is the same thing as war — even though, like war, it is always perpetrated 'by reason of necessity'.

Thank you again and best wishes from



George Turner