

## **Acta Nostra – G.C.V.I.’s First Yearbook was Published in 1926**

The following are two excerpts published in the Editorials section of G.C.V.I.’s 1926 yearbook. Hence, our yearbook and its name, Acta Nostra, is born.



### An Appreciation – by Donald Davidson, Editor

In this, our first issue of Acta Nostra, we wish to express our sincere thanks to all those who have helped to make the paper a success. Some helped very much; others did not do quite so much; but it goes without saying that this paper would have been a miserable failure if the school at large had not stood behind the venture. Is the paper a success? We should say it is. And this success is due largely to the great school spirit that has come to reside within our halls. More especially recognition is due to Miss E. Sinclair and Mr. Dixon, who were ably assisted by our energetic Editor, Milton Watson. Of Miss Sinclair, the founder of our paper, nothing more can be said to heighten her in the affections of the students. To Mr. Dixon is due the pictorial supremacy of Acta Nostra, and it is to Mr. Dixon’s untiring efforts that the obstacles that have come in Acta Nostra’s path have been so cleverly overcome.

### Our Name and Its Origin – by Fred W. Dixon

Since this is our first publication a few words regarding the name “Acta Nostra” (Latin, “Our Doings”) will not be amiss.

Picture in your mind the room on the west side of the building, adjacent to the stage. It is a small room with ceiling probably twenty-five feet in height. One lone electric light at a rather high altitude sends forth its feeble glow. Only a few straggling rays of outside light penetrate through the glass panel in the door. The room is dismal. Here, however, the mind has no distractions—outside sounds do not penetrate—a veritable silence of the tomb prevails except for a slight reverberation of sound between the high walls. Here mental concentration is a possibility.

Sitting around a small table or pacing the floor, the committee may be seen. Their appearance is ordinarily one of serious contemplation as suits their task, but at times a wistful smile breaks over one of the faces as if to say: “Eureka! I have found it. Shall this be the chosen name?” This suggestion is then marked down for further discussion. Numerous lexicons and reference books of Latin, French and Greek are strewn over the table and are referred to continually.

As an incentive to the necessary profound meditation, some of the Committee can be seen indulging in the products of one Mr. Wrigley, whose fame is nation-wide, and whose products have been the cause of considerable chewing in the world.

Discarded papers are strewn on the floor. Wrinkled brows are much in evidence, and from the appearance of abject despair on some of the faces it might seem as if a jury were deciding the fate of a criminal.

It is, however, only the committee at work who are trying to decide upon the name for the G.C.-V.I. Year Book.

The choosing of a name for a school publication is a task which, from a superficial glance, might appear very easy. So many names are used now in publications that it behooves us, in selecting a new one, to be at least original. Our task, then was to select a name which in some measure would indicate the purpose of the Year Book—would be simple and catchy, incapable of much mispronunciation, and acceptable to the majority.

For some reason or other English names did not seem to meet with very much approval. Several French names were submitted, which were short and catchy, but liable to mispronunciation, and we did not wish to feel morally responsible for any possible corruption of the French tongue. Some Latin names were either second hand or did not carry much appeal with them, but when “Acta Nostra” was suggested each one of the committee grasped at it eagerly. Some may say that, having pondered so long and laboriously, we were mentally fatigued and so incapacitated for using our best judgment. Probably so—however, the name has continued to grow steadily in popularity and has made many friends. Our hope is that we may be vindicated by posterity—that “Acta Nostra” may be perpetuated and live as a dear remembrance in the hearts of future students so that all may look back with fond reminiscences upon their Alma Mater and be linked to her more strongly even in those years when we of 1926 shall have become part of the dim distant past.