

**Abstract:** A corpus of Latin declamatory works (*Minor Declamations*, excerpts from the elder Seneca, and Calpurnius Flaccus), as seen in the ninth-century ms. Montpellier, Bibliothèque interuniversitaire, Section Médecine, H 126 (A), contains several different classes of marginal notes. These include: corrections to the text, critical marks signaling textual difficulties, a register of Latin vocabulary, and argumentative summaries. This study takes up the questions of the notes' origin and function, concentrating in particular on the register of vocabulary and the summaries. These two classes of marginal notes, the study demonstrates, are older than A itself. The register of vocabulary, which may originate in the 9<sup>th</sup> century, closely resembles a method of tracking vocabulary seen in mss. of Lupus of Ferrières. The summaries, on the other hand, entered the tradition in late antiquity (2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> cent. AD). Their syntactical form, the manner in which they efficiently encapsulate an argument, and their employment of organizational features (symmetry, sound-patterning) are all paralleled in ancient rhetorical contexts where outlines of arguments are given. This evidence, found in classical sources and in a Carolingian ms., suggests an ancient technique both for the formal construction of the rhetorical summary and for its systematic use.

**Keywords:** Marginalia, Declamation, Quintilian, Mnemotechnics, Technical Latin.