

First the *misthos*. All editors agree on the reading of the stone,  $\text{XCN}$ . Mommsen interpreted this as (*denarium*) *c(entum milia) n(ummum)* without comment, offering no parallel for the Latin abbreviations of Latin numbers in a text that is otherwise Greek. His interpretation has given rise to confusion. D'Arms accepts the figure, claiming the support of *IG XIV 830*, *OGIS 595* and *IGR I.421*, all of which print  $\text{XCN}$  (10-11, 13, 23, 25, 33). He notes "the sum of HS 400,000 ... is the single largest cost on record in Imperial Puteoli, and the largest rent recorded for any Italian city." This huge figure, which stems from Mommsen's unconventional interpretation, should have been suspect. Nevertheless, D'Arms defends it against Duncan-Jones, who "argues that the figure should read HS 100,000," (=25,000 *denarii*). Duncan-Jones is alone in interpreting  $\text{XCN}$  as 25,000. This figure can be reached only by assuming that the symbol for *denarii* ( $\text{X}$ ) stands uniquely here for 100 *denarii*, or that the *denarius*-symbol is in error for HS in all of its five instances. Neither Mommsen nor Duncan-Jones offers parallels for either interpretation.

Dittenberger, Beloch and others, in disagreement with Mommsen, understood the abbreviation as 250 *denarii*, which prompted Dubois to seek justification for Mommsen's interpretation. Dubois (92-3) considers 250 *denarii* too small a sum to cause the *stationarii* consternation. More significantly, Dubois envisions the *statio* as a sprawling compound of large storage silos, trans-shipment depots, shops and lodgings, which he likens optimistically to a medieval *fondaco*. On the other hand, 100,000 *denarii* seems to Dubois too high an amount for rent in second-century Puteoli, even for such a large complex, and so he argues (95-6) that the Tyrians in Puteoli received an annual sum of 100,000 *denarii* from which to pay their various expenses, rent included. This, however, contradicts the letter of the Puteolan *statio*. The *stationarii* state that their revenues are low because of diminished enrollment (8-9) and that the *statio* has been accustomed to meet other expenses out of pocket (15-16). They ask for assistance with the *misthos* alone (13). Furthermore, not only do we not know the dimensions or quality of the *statio*'s installation, but the number of known contemporary rents is too few, and their range of values too wide, to permit sound judgement on this score. [381]