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## Among the Roses

James Laughlin

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Among the Roses · *James Laughlin*

Stat rosa pristina nomine  
nomina nuda tenemus & Ger-

trude said a rose was a  
rose was a rose and for

Bill Williams the rose was  
the symbol for Floss “un-

less the scent of a rose  
startle us anew” and when

I was young if you wanted  
to bed down a chorus girl

you’d send up one red rose  
& a \$50 bill with the man

at the stage door but all  
this is really irrelevant

what the Latin says is the  
rose lives from its name

and we know nothing but  
names yes those erudite

barbarians would like to  
take away from us every-

thing beautiful in liter-  
ature and leave us only

their science of signs.