

## R. S. Gwynn

### *Minor Delay*

The stylish matron, boarding at Lincoln Center,  
Smiles and nods to the busman, who extends  
The ramp, folding two seats for her to enter  
The front-row space. Regally, she ascends  
And, steering with her palm, spins on a dime,  
Backing into her spot. He clicks two latches,  
Secures her brake, and moves us on on time  
While we check cross-street numbers and our watches.

Exiting in the crowd at 44th  
Still two blocks and five minutes from our play,  
We hurry, but she passes, speeding north  
Ahead of us to catch the matinee,  
Undaunted and unchecked and sallying forth  
At a world of walkers yielding right-of-way.

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**R. S. (Sam) Gwynn** has recently been named poet-in-residence at Lamar University, where he has taught since 1976. One of his poems recently appeared in *Best American Poetry 2006*. His most recent book is *Inside Literature: Reading, Responding, Arguing*, co-authored with Steven J. Zani.