

## BARONESS ELSA VON FREYTAG-LORINGHOVEN

The Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven got her fabulous name from her third husband. She was the daughter of a stone mason in Germany, born in 1874, and she worked as an actress, a vaudevillian, an artist's model, a farmer, and a cigarette maker. Although the third husband gave her a title, he didn't have any more money than she did, and she was often supported by patrons of the arts. She was in Greenwich Village in its heyday from 1913 to 1923, where she began making assemblages, doing art performances, and writing poetry, much of which was published by *The Little Review*. She became known as the person who introduced Dada to New York, and she knew everybody in the avant-garde on both sides of the ocean. In 1923 she moved back to Germany and then to Paris, living in straightened circumstances and declining mental health. She died in 1927 from gas inhalation, although whether by accident or suicide isn't clear.