

# On Not Having an Affair With a Flamboyant Minor Dadaist Poetess

by Con Chapman

*Poet William Carlos Williams had "a non-affair with the flamboyant minor-Dadaist poet Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven."*

*The New York Times Book Review*

Elsa, you must not take it amiss  
if I do not succumb to your fervent kiss;  
I have a wife I've cheated on before  
So it's not because I'm true to the missus.



*Williams*

It's just that—well, I don't know how to put this—  
With a Dadaist poet a non-affair is the height of erotic bliss.  
The way you Dadas turn everything ceiling to floor  
If we are to love, a mile is as good as a miss is.



*The Baroness, gettin' jiggy with it.*

Another impediment, although you I'm loven—  
I've counted your syllables—and you have a dozen!  
If we were to marry, my friends I would bore  
Introducing “my wife, Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven.”

So let's keep it chaste, between you and me,  
For minor Dada-ettes forever free should be.  
Oh, I forgot, one absurd thing more—  
My hat rack adores your other bee's knee.

