CONTENTS

Acknowledgments xiii
Abbreviations xv

Introduction: The First American Dada 1

I COITUS IS PARAMOUNT
Poems of Love and Longing 41

Ejaculation 43
Ah Me! 43
Desire 46
A Dozen Cocktails—Please 48
Lucifer Approchant 50
Ancestry 51
Idol 52
Is It? 53
Extant 53
Moonstone 54
Never 54
Firstling 55
King Adam 55
Pastoral (Improved) 56
Heart (Dance of Shiva) 60
Cathedral 61
Dornröschen (Thistlerose) 61
Aphrodite to Mars 64
Oh Fudge 67
History Dim 68
Manquake 69
Tempest 70
Secret 70
Moving-Picture and Prayer 72
To Whom It May Concern 74

II NAVEl BRISTLES
Poems of Embodiment 77

Wing of Lucifer 79
Orgasmic Toast 81
Performance Poem 1 84
Falleve 84
Kindly 86
[They Won’t Let Go Fart] 89
Performance Poem 2 89
Atom 90
Snaketale 90
Pfingst Fanfare 91
Spring in Middle 93
Performance Poem 3 94

III SUBJOYRIDE
Poems of the City and Consumption 97

Subjoyride 99
Sense into Nonesense: 2. Subjoyride 102
Appalling Heart 103
Tryst 104
Caught in Greenwich Village 108
Ostentatious 110
Coronation 112
Café du Dôme 113
Palermo 113
Tailend of Mistake: America 116

IV HARVESTMOON
Performing Nature 119

Ohio–Indiansummer 121
Kentuckytrail 121
V LIFE = 1 DAMN THING AFTER ANOTHER
Poems of Philosophical Contemplation  151

Cosmic Chemistry  153
Buddha  154
Fix  156
[Spring Cleaning]  157
Father!  158
Sanddunes on Tearsea: All  159
All's Well  162
Ultramundanity  163
Fastidious  166
Holy Skirts  166
Spiritual Pass  168
Lofty Logic  169
Perpetuity  170
[Machine Teaches]  170
Constitution  171
VI CRIMSON CRUISING YELL

Sonic Poems 175

Ty—Ry! (Imperial Sunwedding) 177
Klink—Hrazvena (Deathwail) 180
Duet: Eigasing Rin Jalumund 181
Teke Heart (Beating of Heart) 184
To Home 185
Carwindow 188
Jigg 190

VII WHEELS ARE GROWING ON ROSEBUSHES

Visual Poems 193

X-ray 195
Perspective 195
Perpetual Motion 197
Kroo 197
Affectionate 200
Graveyard Surrounding Nunnery 201
Lullaby 203
October 206
Travel 206
Enchantment 206
Thistledownflight 207
Ill Knight 210
Facing 211
Game Legend 215
Forgotten—Like This Parapluice 217

VIII PROUD MALIGNANT CORPSE

Poems on Death and Suicide 221

Standpoint 223
Cosmic Sense Suicide 223
Purgatory Lilt 223
Hospital Melody 225
Dirge 226
We Are Fleas 229
Heir 230
Fluency 231
Haunt 231
Flameashes 232
Chill 233
Loss 234
Moony 234
[Body Sweats] 236
Mefk Maru Mustir Daas 237
Bereft 238
Solitude 238
Kinship 240
Blast 242
Shot 243
Marie Ida Sequence 243
Sunsong 244
Catafalk 246
Circle 246

IX  ART IS SHAMELESS
Poems on Aesthetic Consciousness 249

Pity Me (Confession) 251
Love—Chemical Relationship 253
Stagnation 255
Spaciousness 256
Filmballad 258
Don Quixote 262
[I Hate Hate] 262
Perspective 264
Narcissus Icarus 264
Gihirda’s Dance 266
Moses 267
To Earny 269
[George Antheil] 269
[My Craziness] 270
“Ach—Lieber Kapitän—” But—Dear Captain— 270
CAST-IRON LOVER

Long Poetry and Poetic Criticism  275

Mineself—Minesoul—And—Mine—Cast-Iron Lover  277
“The Modest Woman”  286
The Art of Madness  289
Thee I Call “Hamlet of Wedding-Ring”: Criticism of William Carlos Williams’s “Kora in Hell” and Why . . .  291
[Hope is Bloodmoney: Letter to Peggy Guggenheim]  313

APPENDIX A

Spectrum Typescript  315

APPENDIX B

Contemporary Commentary on Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven  327

Maxwell Bodenheim, “The Reader Critic” (November 1919)  327
Evelyn Scott, “The Art of Madness” (December 1919)  329
Jane Heap, “The Art of Madness” (December 1919)  330
Maxwell Bodenheim, “The Reader Critic” (April 1920)  330
Jane Heap, “Dada” (Spring 1922)  331
Djuna Barnes, “Elsa Baroness von Freytag-Loringhoven” (February 1928)  332

Chronology  333
Notes on the Poetry  339
Notes on the Text  395
Bibliography  403
Index of Poetry Titles  409
Index of Names and Topics  413