Preface

The politics of cultural mediation began as two sessions on the Baroness Elsa von Freytag-Loringhoven and Felix Paul Greve as cultural mediators organized by Irene Gammel and Klaus Martens for the Canadian Comparative Literature Association annual conference held in Edmonton, Alberta in May of 2000. The idea for the panels grew, in part, out of the dialogue fostered among researchers by two different but related developments, both underwritten by the increasing globalisation of literary and cultural studies in the 19905. One was the renewed interest in New York Dada—particularly the role and representation of gender in that contact zone of cultures—and in the Baroness as the embodiment of New York Dada and herself a cultural mediator. Signs of that interest include the publication of at least four books—Neu; York Dada (Kuenzli 1986), Baroness Elsa, the Baroness's autobiography (Hjartarson and Spettigue 1992), New York Dada 1915-23 (Naumann 1994), and Women in Dada: Essays on Sex, Gender, and Identity (Sawelson-Gorse 1998)—and the mounting of a major exhibition on New York Dada at the Whitney Museum of American Art titled "Making Mischief: Dada Invades New York." (The exhibition was curated by Francis M. Naumann and Beth Venn and ran from November 21, 1996 to February 23,1997.) The book Making Mischiej: Dada Invades New York (Naumann and Venn 1996) was published in association with the exhibition and took as its cover image Baroness Elsa's Portrait o/Marcel Duchamp (figure I). Irene Gammel's Baroness Elsa: Gender, Dada and Eueryday Modernity: A Cultural Biography (2002), the first book-length, scholarly biography of the Baroness's life, is the latest contribution to this strand of the dialogue and another

sign of the strong, continuing interest in both New York Dada and the Baroness.

The other development was a renewed interest in Felix Paul Greve not as the canonical English-Canadian author Frederick Philip Grove but as a German translator and cultural mediator. Klaus Martens, Chair of North American Literature and Culture and Director of the Centre for Canadian and Anglo-American Cultures, and his colleagues at the Universitat des Saarlandes have been central to this work. The renewed interest in Greve's work was apparent in a series of events organised in 1998 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of FPG's death. These included a session for a conference held at the Universitat des Saarlandes in April, the proceedings of which were subsequently published under the title Pioneering North America: Mediators a/European Literature and Culture (Martens 2000); a joint session of two associations for a conference at the University of Ottawa in May; and a conference, In Memoriam FPG: An International Symposium. held at the University of Manitoba in September. By 1998, the year in which Women in Dada appeared and FPG's life was commemorated, Klaus Martens had published his Felix Paul Greues Karriere: Frederick Philip Groue in Deutschland (1997), a translated and updated version of which appeared as E.P. Grove in Europe and Canada: Translated Lives (2001); he and his colleague Jutta Ernst were completing "Je uous e'cris, en hate etite'ureusement": Felix Paul Greue-Andre'Gide: Korrespondenz und Dokumentation (1999); Richard Cavell had just published his essay "Felix Paul Greve, the Eulenburg Scandal, and Frederick Philip Grove" (1997); and Irene Gammel was in the midst of work on her biography of the

CRCL JANUARY-MARCH 2002 MARS-JUIN

Baroness. It was within the dynamics of this cultural production that the CCLA panels were organized and the present volume conceived.

Endnotes

1. See the website for the Canadian and Anglo-American Cultures at the Universitat des Saarlandes http://www.klausmartens.com>.