

# Vietnamese Villager

**FRAN MARTENS FRIESEN**

The old widow  
with cracked face,  
beetlenut- blackened teeth,  
chipped cups,  
in a mud-floored, musty room,  
no window, one lumpy bed,  
one rocking table,  
smiled at us as she  
shared her sugarcane  
and poured  
the tea.