

# Your Danish Hope Chest

It is older than we are;  
the wood is cracked,

and there is a splinter  
in one corner of the lid.

The outside is teal green  
with *rosemaling* designs

painted on the lid and sides.  
The inside is deep and worn,

and reminds me of the double  
history you have given me.

After we married, we shipped it  
to America with all your journals

inside. To share the risk, I added  
all the poems I had written

during my Danish year. Now,  
almost forty-four years later,

it is next to your desk,  
our stuffed white Christmas bear

nestled on the top. Each morning,  
I wake up, still in wonder, holding your hand.