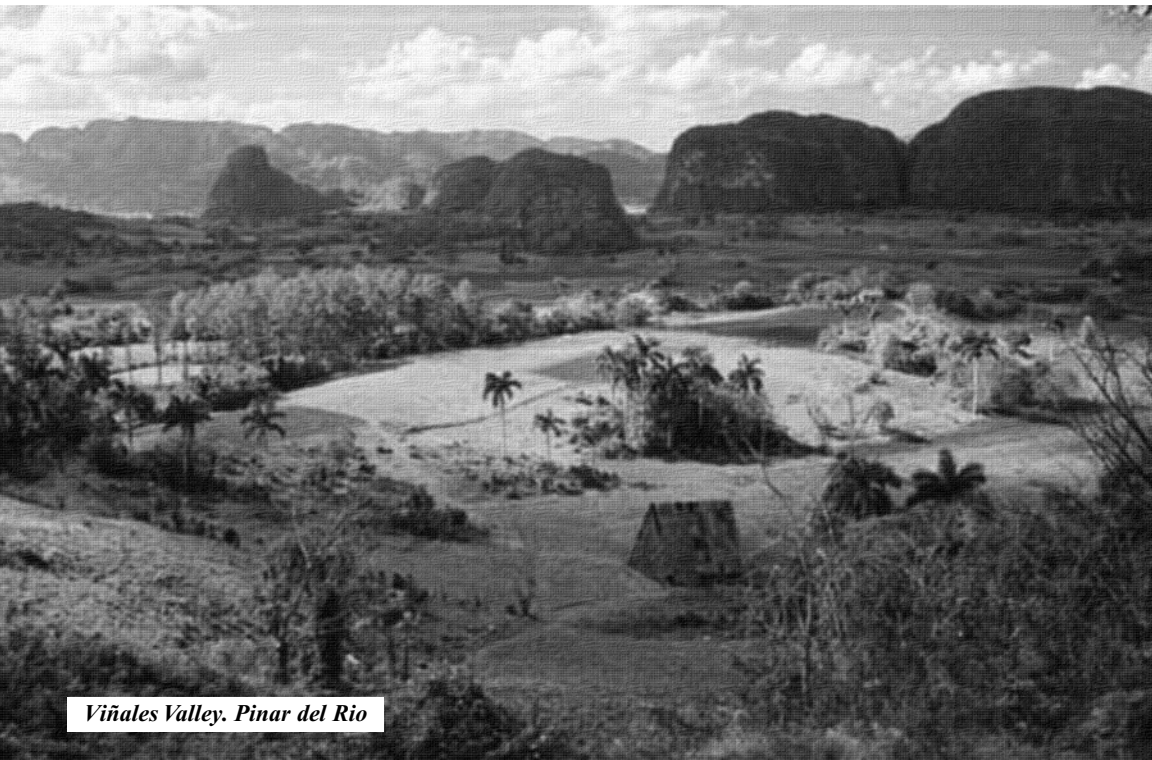


Cuban Pride

Although I was only three years old when I left Cuba,
I feel proud to be Hispanic ("latina").
I carry in my soul the warmth of my Cuba, so close
and yet so far;
The joy of the rumba and the mambo, the beating
of the drums of the Afro-Cuban music,



Viñales Valley. Pinar del Rio

The aroma of Cuban Coffee, the taste of a good Cuban cigar,
The sweetness of the mangos of my native country,
And the flexibility of the Caribbean palm trees that move to
the rhythm of the wind.

Odisa Carvajal
September 20, 2001