





A Tussie-Mussie is a small tightly gathered hand held bouquet of fragrant herbs and flowers. .Often surrounded by a lace or paper doily and tied with ribbons. The herbs and flowers included in the nosegay express a message from the heart of the giver. They speak a language better understood than words. It can convey Congratulations, Sympathy, Baby Blessings, Good Wishes, Thank you, Or undying love. The fragrance has a long association with man.



To keep the Tussie-mussie fresh, mist often and keep cool.. The fresh Tussie-mussie may be dried and preserved as a lasting remembrance. To dry, hang upside down, in a warm, dry, dark place for about a week. Spray lightly with hairspray. Fragrance oil may be added to a small cotton ball and tucked in the flowers.



Special holders were designed to carry Tussie-mussies, They were Made of Silver and Gold, set with precious stones or pearls, and many had engraved floral designs. Shapes and sizes varied, they even made child size holders. During the reign of Queen Victoria, these holders were all the fashion rage.





The language of herbs and flowers became popular in the 1800's throughout Europe. Many floral dictionaries were published; every flower and tree had a different meaning. Oft times different authors had different meanings for the same plant.

Amaranth---immortality
Bachelor button---hope in love
Basil---best wishes
Bay---glory, reward
Bergamont---compassion
Camomile---may all your wishes come
True

Coriander---your closeness is welcome
Daisy---beauty, simplicity, innocence
Fern---sincerity
Feverfew---you light up my life
Forget-me-not---true love; forget me not
Heartsease---happy thoughts
Ivy-----friendship
Lavender---devotion, loyalty
Lemon balm---pleasant company of
Friends

Lemon Verbena---enchantment
Marjoram---happiness
Mint---virtue
Pansy---thoughts; love

Rose---love; beauty
Pink---grace
Red-Love and desire
White-regard
Yellow-friendship
Rosemary---remembrance
Sage---esteem; long life and good
Health
Scented Geranium---gentility
Sweet Woodruff---be cheerful
Tansy---immortality; life everlasting
Thyme---happiness; courage



So!!! A Tussie-mussie is a posy or
nosegay with a message

Take Rosemary for memories
Of Happy times together.

Lavender for devotion
In times of stormy weather.

Scented leaf geraniums bring
A breath of old sachets

And dreams of quiet parlors
With sunny plant-lined bays.

Tuck in a bit of green-grey sage,
For wisdom and long life,

And thyme for strength and courage
When days seem filled with strife.

Add rosebuds as reminders that
The bonds of love are strong,

When times together are too short,
And times apart too long

Attach a special message
That will gladden someone's day

Surround with lace and loving
Thoughts, then send it on it's way.

" Anonymous "





"By these token flowers, that tell what
words can never speak so well,"

Lord Byron