From ancient times through the Middle Ages, men and women would often carry small nosegay bouquets of fragrant herbs and flowers called ‘tussie mussies’, to fend off noxious odors - a way to ward off smells from the street before regular bathing and indoor plumbing were common.

The word "tussie mussie" probably comes from an older word “tuss” meaning a cluster of flowers.

Tussie mussies remained popular through the Victorian era, when it referred to a small group of flowers placed in a metal vase specifically designed to be carried, or to the entire bouquet. Young ladies were judged socially on their skill in making these handheld bouquets.

A tussie mussie was a popular gift to a lady from her suitor, and typically incorporated the language of flowers to convey the suitor’s sentiments.
**STEP 1**
Choose Your Victorian Ribbon and Toile

- Horizontally lay wide double-wired ribbon, wrong-side up
- Lay toile circle on top, folded in half

**STEP 2**
Select Your Floral and Message

- Choose 3-5 herbs and florals and lay lengthwise across Victorian ribbon and toile
- Tie corresponding floral meaning tags together with 1/8" ribbon

**STEP 3**
Tie It Altogether

- Scrunch Victorian ribbon and florals at LOWER EDGE of ribbon into a nosegay
- Wrap 1/2" ribbon around base and tie bow
- Tie floral meaning tags to base