Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue

Terms:
The history behind the adage

Rust-Oleum Staff

If you’ve ever been married or gone to a wedding, you may have heard the adage: Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue.

This tradition comes from a 19th century English rhyme: “Something Olde, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Blue, A Sixpence in your Shoe.”

According to popular wedding website The Knot, the four objects listed in this old world tradition, are intended to bring luck to the bride.

Something Old represents continuity.
Something New represents optimism for the future.
Something Borrowed symbolizes borrowed happiness.
Something Blue stands for purity, love and fidelity.

A sixpence in your shoe is a British custom, offering the bride wishes for good fortune and prosperity.

Queen Victoria is said to have started the white wedding dress tradition in 1840 when she married Prince Albert. In those days most brides wore red wedding dresses. One proverb says, "marry in blue, lover be true."

Martha Stewart Weddings suggests breaking tradition and getting the groom involved by wearing his father's cuff links or wearing something blue such as a blue tie.

Modern Wedding also suggests mixing up this tradition with a modern twist on a centuries-old custom. Drive up in a classic car, wear a new scent, incorporate a borrowed necklace into your wedding look, or wear blue high heels for your something blue.

If American brides are anything like their British counterparts, the vast majority follow this tradition. According to Hitched W.I.F.E (Wedding Industry Facts and Economics), 78 percent of U.K. brides surveyed said they would follow these traditions.

We hope you have learned something new, about this old tradition and enjoyed the facts we've borrowed from wedding sites.