

Little shoes from the past

1. Born in the year of the Tiger

Handmade 20th century Chinese tiger shoes. The tiger is one of the twelve cycles of zodiac animals, and children born in the year of the tiger would have worn these shoes.

2. Mother often made everything

American soft-soled, embroidered children's boots from about 1865. These were often made at home from patterns in books or women's periodicals.

3. Just like 'Mama'

Green quilted silk shoes from early 18th century Britain. Made with pointed toes and decorative buckles, they illustrate how children's wear often imitates adult fashion.

4. I've got some Barrette shoes

These, smart little girl's shoes are from around 1880. The word 'Barrette' referred to the distinctive bars across the front.

5. Little shoes for little Sioux

These shoes are from the Sioux people of North America. The shoes are made from soft leather with red porcupine quill decoration and are real shoes rather than moccasins.

6. Real little moccasins

These are moccasins and from the Canadian Slavey people. They are made from smoked moose hide with a pink velvet apron, edged with horse-hair and silk piping.

7. A Present for Baby

This pair of baby shoes comes from Britain in about 1875. They came in their own special gift box inscribed 'A Present for Baby'.

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