AMETHYST
THE HISTORY AND MYSTERY

Picture courtesy of
http://www.plumant.com/amethyst/

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Due to its affordability and availability, amethyst is one of the world’s most popular gems.

It has been admired by royalty for centuries and has been linked as far back as biblical times.

Amethyst is used by clergy of many religious affiliations.

Amethyst has been linked to many mystical and healing powers.
THE HISTORY

- Amethyst dates back to biblical times but the Ancient Greeks brought it to popularity.
- Derived from the Greek work “amethystos” meaning “sober” or in some translations “not drunken”.
- Ancient Egyptians used the stone to represent the zodiac sign of the goat.
- The goat was the enemy of the vines that were used to produce wine.

Jewels for me (2002-2012a).
The Legend

- Dionysius, the god of intoxication was angered by a mortal and swore revenge on the next mortal he saw.
- The beautiful young maiden Amethyst was on her way to pay tribute to the goddess Diana.
- Diana turned her into a quartz statue to protect her from Dionysius.
- Dionysius wept in remorse at this sight and his tears stained the statue purple.
Was one of the 12 stones adorned on the breastplate of the high priest Aaron from biblical times.

It represented the tribe of Dan which was one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel.

It is still worn by clergy of many denominations.

Jewels for me (2002-2012a).
The Composition

- Iron impurities give Amethyst its purple color.
- Streaks White
- Hardness of 7 on Mohs Hardness Scale.
- Hexagonal crystal structure
- Density of 2.65

\[ \text{SiO}_2 \text{ Silicon Dioxide composition} \]
\[ \text{Refractive index of 1.544 } - 1.553 \]

The information on this page was retrieved from 3dchem.com (2005-2012)
Where is it Found?

- Mined mainly in Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia, Tanzania, Zambia, and Namibia.
- Also found in the United States, mainly at the Four Peaks mine near Phoenix, AZ.

Schumann (2009) p 134
The Power

- Been known to help with insomnia and bad dreams. Put a piece under your pillow for a long “dreamy” sleep.  
  
  - The amethyst symbolizes piety, humility, sincerity and spiritual wisdom.

- Leonardo Da Vinci wrote that the gem dissipates evil thoughts and quickens the intelligence.
Symbolism

According to Schumann (2009) amethyst is:

- The official birthstone for February
- The Zodiac stone for the constellation of Pisces
- Has been assigned to the planet Neptune by Uyldert (1983) and Raphaell (1987).
- It is also the recommended gem for Thursdays.

The Zodiac sign of Pisces
Compliments of: http://www.kewlwallpapers.com/wallpaper/Pisces-Zodiac-Sign/
Power of Healing

- Schumann (2009) reported healing properties of amethyst and stated that wearing the gem helps with:
  - Headaches
  - Diseases of the Pancreas
  - Sciatica
  - Opening blockages throughout the body to allow for better energy flow

[Image: Nature's Power Amethyst]

Courtesy of enchantedjewelry.com
References