



M O L D A V I T E

First Draft
02.03.06

Pronounced mold - a - vite

Origin Not entirely understood!

Theory 1: It came from outer space, melted as it flew through the Earth's atmosphere thereby forming its characteristic rough surface texture.

Theory 2: The impact of a large meteorite from outer space hitting the Earth caused surrounding rocks to melt and scatter and form the rough surface as they cooled. (Our favourite!)

Theory 3: Time to research . . .try Google and enjoy!

Composition Mainly silicon dioxide SiO_2

Structure Amorphous (no distinct crystal structure). A rough surface in natural state with distinctive jagged, scarred texture.

Colour Olive green/greeny brown. Transparent and/or translucent

Sources Found ONLY in the Czech Republic near the Moldau River (hence the name moldavite).

Crystals

Story

There is a fantastic display of Czech moldavite in Prague's magnificent National Museum.

Ray tracked down a specialist museum in Tyn nad Vltavou which required considerable persistence to gain admission! Moldavite jewellery is presently bought from a commune in the Krakov region of Poland. Here there is a permanent ceremony of burning moldavite fragments with the whole community seeking an affinity with moldavite. They hand select moldavite pieces for cutting into facet stones or using in a rough form for making into a comprehensive range of gold and silver jewellery. Maybe half of Crystals staff own a piece of this jewellery (many having an entire collection).

More recently, moldavite is being promoted in China. We foresee a shortage of raw material and price hikes in the near future. Sleeping with moldavite under the pillow can be interesting!

Ros Mason March 2006

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