



*Felice Maclachlan*

F. MACHATSCHKI worked in my laboratory in Manchester as a Research Fellow in the academic session of 1928—29. It was at a time when the research in the laboratory was directed towards the solution of the structure of minerals, and of silicates in particular, by X-ray analysis, and a number of people who have become famous were there at the time—R. W. JAMES, so well known for his work on X-ray optics, W. H. TAYLOR, who has established the structure of the feldspars, A. J. BRADLEY, who was a pioneer in the structure of metals and alloys, ST. NÁRAY-SZABÓ, the indefatigable W. H. ZACHARIASEN who was reputed to work out one crystal structure a week, G. W. BRINDLEY well known for his work on the clays, and A. H. JAY for his brilliant work with the powder camera and his elucidation of phase changes. MACHATSCHKI was known to us for his work on Tourmaline and Tetrahedrite, and for his prophecies, so soon to be proved true by TAYLOR, of the principles of the feldspar structures and of the relationships between the orthoclase and plagioclase feldspars. If I remember rightly he worked mainly on the structure of Danburite,  $\text{CaB}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_8$ , while in Manchester. It proved to be a refractory structure to analyse, and MACHATSCHKI's usually high spirits were sometimes replaced by intervals of the deepest despair when the crystal just would not "come out". I think it was still unsolved when he left us and only yielded to further analysis later. He was given a farewell party in the laboratory, with a central feature of a large cake. MACHATSCHKI, asked to cut the first slice, had his hand guided to the right spot. When the section of cake was removed, it revealed the structure of Danburite depicted by cherries, raisins and angelica baked into the cake — or at any rate what the lady who baked the cake thought Danburite ought to look like. We all had the happiest recollections of MACHATSCHKI's stay with us, he was a very pleasant colleague. I am glad to have the opportunity of sending my congratulations on his 70th birthday and making my contribution to the other expressions he will be receiving of admiration for his scientific work.

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