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WOUTER VAN LIS AND HIS PHARMACOPOEA GALENO-CHEMICO-MEDICA 1747

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This unofficial Rotterdam pharmacopoeia was composed by Wouter van Lis (1709-1784). Both author and book are remarkable in a couple of respects. Van Lis started his career as a pharmacist at Rotterdam in 1727, in 1742 he bought the brewery 'De Oranjeboom' and sold his pharmacy, and in 1745 he matriculated as a medical student at Utrecht and graduated MD there in the same year. According to the preface Van Lis wrote this book mainly to improve the official Rotterdam pharmacopoeia of 1709. But in fact his prescription book is a mixture of a medical and a pharmaceutical textbook wherein the author lays down his knowledge about pharmacy, brewery and medicine. And because all information is very conveniently arranged the book can be used as an easy-reference manual. Wouter van Lis' pharmacopoeia certainly has drawn attention. A second revised edition was published at Amsterdam in 1764, and this pharmacopoeia was even translated into Japanese by Hashimoto Sôkichie in 1803. However, it remains to be seen if this pharmacopoeia was indeed an improvement with regard to the descriptions of the simplicia and composita in the Rotterdam pharmacopoeia of 1709.