

**VAN BOCHAUTE Karel**

Born: 1732, Mechelen

Died: 1793, Brussels

After becoming a pharmacist in 1753, he qualifies as a physician with a dissertation on poisonous substances. This confirms his interest in chemistry and he applies for a professorship at the University of Leuven. He is missed out and after returning temporarily to his medical and pharmaceutical practice in Mechelen he is accepted at the next examination. In 1773 Van Bochaute becomes a full-time professor, acquires a brief renown under Joseph II but because of this collaboration remains –like many other followers of this king – for the rest of his life permanently excluded from the University of Leuven. As part of a study to establish the link between vegetal and animal compounds, he determines the composition of bile, provides new information about Prussian blue and joins forces with Minckelers (1748-1824) and his experiments with coal-gas. He is a follower of Lavoisier and publishes a table of the chemical affinities and thinks up a new nomenclature that is eclipsed the next year by Lavoisier's system.