

*Translated by Edam Museum volunteers. Original text and images available on the Stadskrant website:*  
<https://www.stadskrant.net/nieuws/edams-museum-haalt-ouwaters-terug-naar-nederland>

Edam Museum has succeeded in acquiring two unique oil paintings from the work of Isaac Ouwater (1748 - 1793). Both city views meticulously and accurate show the Edam at the end of the 18th century: lieux de mémoires with beautiful city gates on the East and West of the city, complete with the Speeltoren [Carillon] and the Kwakel Bridge.

The purchase would not have succeeded without the overwhelming interest and financial support of: Rembrandt Association, VSB Fund, Countess of Bylandt Foundation and Rabobank Cooperative Fund.

There was also plenty of local support: The Circle of Friends of Edam Museum, the Municipality of Edam-Volendam, Vereniging Oud Edam [Association of Old Edam], Nutsdepartement Edam (Society for General Benefit, Edam section), Boon Edam, Ondernemersvereniging Edam [Entrepreneurs Association of Edam], Dental Centre Volendam and 8 private individuals. A substantial contribution to the purchase has been provided by Edam Museum from its own resources.

Both paintings were auctioned at Christie's auction house in London on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Edam Museum was represented by Auke van der Werf when the intended works came under the hammer at around noon. In the past weeks, the required funds had been raised. It was clear that these third parties immediately recognized the importance of the Ouwaters for Edam, in the enthusiasm with which they responded, from cultural funds, businesses and donations by individuals.

The paintings are thought to have been part of a private collection in a Warwickshire castle in England for around 100 years. In that period, they were only exhibited once, in 1948. When curator Hayo Riemersma of Edam Museum saw the unique opportunity approaching to bring these works back to the Netherlands (bygone Edam cityscapes of a Dutch painter!) He did not hesitate for a moment and the board 'put all sails' in order to action to succeed.

Isaac Ouwater made over 100 works of Dutch cityscapes in the 18th century during his 45-year life, of which about half in Amsterdam. Other cities where he worked include Utrecht, Haarlem, Purmerend, Hoorn and Edam.