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# THE UNVEILING OF THE UNKNOWN MINER

In recognition of its establishment as a result of and contributor to Johannesburg and the mining sector, Wits is unveiling a sculpture of the Unknown Miner at an event that takes place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 in the Chamber of Mines Building. The event will be hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Prof. Loyiso Nongxa, with the keynote address by Bobby Godsell, former CEO of AngloGold Ashanti Limited and a National Planning Commissioner. In the late 1950s, Harry Oppenheimer commissioned Herman Wald (1906 – 1970) to create two memorial works to celebrate the life and achievement of his father, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer, one in Kimberley and the other in Johannesburg. It comprises a group of five miners holding up a sieve. The five figures form the Diamond Diggers Fountain installed in Kimberley in 1959.

The Unknown Miner is a casting of one of the five miners and stands at the entrance of the Chamber of Mines building that partially houses the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment. The three-meter bronze figure serves as a reminder of the importance of the mining industry and mining education to South Africa's economy. It also serves as a tribute to the many unsung heroes who came from diverse backgrounds and cultures and who laboured and sacrificed to establish the mining industry and the City of Gold from 1886.

The Unknown Miner was donated to Wits by Louis Wald, the son of Herman Wald and was accepted by Prof. Beatrys Lacquet, the Dean of Engineering and the Built Environment, on behalf of Wits University. The second work by Wald, called Stampede (a group of 18 impala forming an arch over a fountain) was donated to the City of Johannesburg and now stands in Main Street.

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