

Why was the statue erected in the first place?

Over a period of twelve years, the Afrikaanse Studentebond raised money to erect a statue in honour of MT Steyn outside the Main Building, because this former president worked diligently towards an indigenous Afrikaans Free State university during the Republican years and after the war. Thousands of people attended the unveiling on 28 September 1929, where the student body representative noted that the statue was erected

in honour of a great statesman and would inspire students to stand in the service of their people, among others.

The sculpture of MT Steyn represents the time just before the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) and is typical of a 19th century sculpture that celebrates power and purpose. Steyn is presented as a person of reflection (he was a jurist) that commands respect in a large (double life-size) sculpture, placed on an almost-equally impressive base.



MT Steyn statue in front of the Main Building on the Bloemfontein Campus