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A most handsome and large scale Italian mid 19th century patinated bronze statue of the Farnese Bull. The rich and warmly patinated bronze is raised by a square mottled support with a palmette designed border all above ball feet. The sculptural group represents the myth of Dirce first wife of Lykon, King of Thebes. She was tied to a wild bull by the sons of Antiope, Amphion and Zethus, who wanted to punish her for the ill-treatment inflicted on their mother.

The original group was unearthed in 1546 during the excavations of the gymnasium of the Roman Baths of Caracalla. It is a massive Roman copy of a Hellenistic sculpture which happens to be the largest single sculpture recovered from antiquity. The Farnese Bull was formerly in the Farnese collection in Rome.





