Finch & Co



A NATURALISTICALLY MODELLED BRONZE OF A WALKING BULL

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FRENCH OR NETHERLANDISH. OLD REDDISH BROWN PATINA WITH TRACES OF ORIGINAL BLACK LACQUERING
MID 17TH CENTURY
SIZE: 11CM HIGH, 20.5CM LONG, 6.5CM DEEP – 4¼ INS HIGH, 8 INS LONG, 2½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE MODEL FOR THIS BRONZE BULL IS MOST PROBABLY DERIVED FROM ANCIENT GRECO-ROMAN PROTOTYPES OF BULLS IN SACRIFICIAL PROCESSIONS WHICH ARE SHOWN WALKING MEEKLY ALONG WITH THEIR HEADS LOWERED SUBMISSIVELY AND WITH GARLANDS LOOPED AROUND THEIR HORNS.
FROM THE EARLIEST HISTORICAL TIMES BULLS HAVE BEEN REGARDED AS A SYMBOL OF STRENGTH AND MASCULINITY AND OFTEN AS AN EMBODIMENT OF ROYAL POWER AND MIGHT. IN ANCIENT EGYPT A NUMBER OF BULLS ENJOYED SPECIAL STATUS AS 'SACRED ANIMALS', NOTABLY THE APIS AND BUCHIS BULLS WHICH WERE INTERRED IN CATACOMBS AT THE PYRAMID COMPLEX OF SAQQARA AND AT ARMANT.