

## 5. AN EARLY BRITISH BRONZE FINGER RING FROM FORFAR.

The finger ring (Pl. XVII, 2) was found in a garden in Forfar some years ago. It is made of bronze, cast, and little effort, if any, has been made to remove the traces of casting. The hoop is plain, very nearly circular, and measures  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in external diameter. The bezel is circular, being  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch in diameter, and contains a triskele ornament in openwork design. The ring does not fall into line with any known examples, but the fact that the material from which it was made is bronze, and the unusual openwork triskele decoration, suggested an early date. The triskele has, however, lost the animation of the earlier Celtic design such as one can see in the rondels of an early Celtic tankard from Trawsfynydd,<sup>2</sup> and one must therefore look to something later for comparison.

Although it is perhaps stretching the analogy too far, the triskele on the rondel from the native fort at Seamill in Ayrshire<sup>3</sup> has a closer resemblance to the triskele on the ring. The use of the object found at Seamill is not known, and although it has a shank on the back similar to those from Wood Eaton, Oxon., Stanlake, Oxon. and Berkshire, figured by Leeds on p. 55 of *Celtic Ornament*, it is an inferior production to any of those, and is therefore likely to be later in date. Both the ring and the rondel from Seamill are decadent examples of the earlier Celtic art, and are but poor shadows of the rondels on the Trawsfynydd tankard.

One cannot, therefore, state an exact chronological period to which the ring belongs, but a guess at somewhere between the second and fourth centuries A.D. may be near the mark.<sup>4</sup>

A. J. H. EDWARDS, *Director.*

<sup>1</sup> R.C.H.M., Berwick, No. 75.

<sup>2</sup> Leeds, *Celtic Ornament*, fig. 20 (a).

<sup>3</sup> *Archæological and Historical Collections of Ayr and Wigtown*, vol. iii. p. 63, fig. 3.

<sup>4</sup> The ring was submitted to Mr T. O. Kendrick of the British Museum for inspection, and I am indebted to him for the reference to the Trawsfynydd tankard and other valuable suggestions.