

5. PENANNULAR BROOCH IN BRONZE FROM SKYE.

In May 1952 a penannular brooch in bronze was found at a depth of 3 ft. in a peat bog at Bay, Skye, and was forwarded to me for examination. The ring (Pl. XXIX, 1) is flat on the under surface and plano-convex above, as if cast in an open mould. Its expanded terminals are of trapezoidal shape, and each displays a small lozenge-shaped ornament—a frame imitating beaded wire containing four drupes. The pin, which has a loose ring that may have been tampered with, is in section flattish, with bevelled edges. On the broad head is a series of incised chevrons. The pin is of rougher texture and has been partly beaten. Its colour is nearer to gold, and it may retain some traces of gilding. The diameter of the ring is $1\frac{7}{16}$ ins., length of pin $3\frac{1}{2}$ ins. Probably the brooch was lost as it was found—in casting peats.

A bronze brooch found in a famous hoard at Trewhiddle, St Austell, Cornwall (see *V.C.H.*, Cornwall, I, 375–8, and B.M. *Anglo-Saxon Guide* (1923), 99–101), has expanded heads displaying a sunk lozenge with four drupes, very similar to our brooch from Skye. Though the other objects in the hoard are Anglo-Saxon, the brooch is rather from some Celtic area. The Trewhiddle hoard can be proved by numismatic evidence to have been deposited between A.D. 874 and 880. In

¹ *P.R.I.A.*, LIII (C) (1951), 120.

² H. O'N. Hencken, *Cahercommaun* (*J.R.S.A.I.*, special vol., 1938), 53.

³ *P.R.I.A.*, XLIII (C) (1936), 140.

⁴ *Cahercommaun*, 53.

⁵ Anne Roes in *Bericht Rijkd. Oudheidk. Bodemond. in Nederland*, IV, 2 (December 1953), 31.

⁶ *Revue des Musées*, XVIII (1928), 81.

⁷ Roes, *loc. cit.*, 32.

⁸ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXIII (1948–9), 186.

the Skye brooch, the rudimentary fillets defining the terminals are obviously decadent reminiscences of the double lining or framing of the terminals on the Trehiddle brooch. The sunk lozenge with its four drupes recurs, forming the whole of a terminal, on a mould fragment for a brooch only $\frac{9}{16}$ in. across, found with many others at Mote of Mark, Dalbeattie (*P.S.A.S.*, XLVIII, 125-6; see figs. 13 and 14, No. 4), and assigned by Dr A. O. Curle to the 9th century. This shows that such brooches were being made in Scotland in or about that time. The Skye brooch may therefore, with some confidence, be assigned to about the end of the 9th century.

I have seen a penannular brooch with similar "bramble" ornament in the Bergen Museum; it is figured in *P.S.A.S.Lond.*, XXI, 20.

The Skye brooch is now preserved at Dunvegan Castle.

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