

<sup>31</sup> Loc. cit. in note 12; op. cit. in note 14, no. 188.

<sup>32</sup> Op. cit. in note 16, Appendix C; op. cit. in note 19, 62–63.

<sup>33</sup> Op. cit. in notes 15 and 19, *passim*; see also that from Walton, Bucks., perhaps of 8th-century date, published by Prof. Vera Evison in M. Farley, 'Saxon and Medieval Walton, Aylesbury: excavations 1973–74', *Records of Buckinghamshire*, xx (1976), 153–291.

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>35</sup> Op. cit. in note 19, nos. 94 and 95.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, no. 13.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 1.

<sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, 28.

<sup>39</sup> M. Budny and J. Graham-Campbell, 'An 8th-century Anglo-Saxon ornament from Canterbury and related works', *Archaeologia Cantiana*, xcvi (1981), 7–25.

<sup>40</sup> Op. cit. in note 16, 105.

<sup>41</sup> J. Graham-Campbell, 'A fragmentary bronze strap-end of the Viking period from the Udal, North Uist, Inverness-shire', *Medieval Archaeol.*, xvii (1973), 128–31.

<sup>42</sup> Wilson in Wilson and Blunt, loc. cit. in note 16, and op. cit. in note 19, 21–35.

## RECENT FINDS OF PENANNULAR BROOCHES FROM WALES (Pl. v)

The last two years have seen the discovery of four decorated penannular and pseudo-penannular brooches from the coastal areas of Wales, three from the north and one from the south. In February 1980 a pseudo-penannular brooch, lacking only its pin, and the terminal of another were found at about SH 919 766, just S. of *Llys Awel* farmstead, 0.5 km NE. of Pen-y-corddyn hill-fort, in the parish of Abergele, Clwyd (Pl. v. A and B). They were part of a larger find discovered by metal-detector operators in the same area, which included a quantity of Roman coins, as well as bronze figurines and other votive objects, now in the National Museum of Wales (acc. no. 81.35H/11 and 12). Later in the same year part of a penannular brooch of comparable type (Pl. v, c) was found at *Trearddur Bay* on the S. side of Holywell Island, Anglesey at about SH 256 790, in ground recently disturbed by the strengthening of the sea-wall. This also has been acquired by the National Museum of Wales (acc. no. 80.102H). In February 1982 the attention of the Museum was drawn to a complete penannular brooch (Pl. v, D), found on the beach NW. of *Llanmadog* on the tip of the Gower peninsula in West Glamorgan at about SS 433 942. This brooch also has been acquired by the National Museum (acc. no. 82.67H).

All three locations are interesting. In the case of the *Llys Awel* find, the proximity of Pen-y-Corddyn hill-fort, the Roman finds with their implication of a religious site somewhere in the vicinity, and the neighbouring farm name *Hen Blas* (Old Place), often indicating a settlement of ancient foundation, all point to the need for a careful appraisal of the area. The *Trearddur Bay* find is close to Towyn-y-Capel, the site of a chapel dedicated to St Bride, situated about 20 m above high water mark, where cist burials have been reported.<sup>1</sup> Dark Age activity in the neighbouring parishes of *Llanmadog* and *Llangenydd* at the NW. extremity of the Gower peninsula is amply attested by the ecclesiastical settlement on the offshore island of Burry Holms and the presence of four Early Christian monuments, as well as by a fragmentary thistle-brooch from Culver Hole cave (National Museum of Wales, acc. no. 31.118/2). *Llanmadog* Church, with an inscribed stone of the late 5th or early 6th century and two cross-incised pillar-stones of the 7th to 9th century seems to have been a site of some importance. It must be stressed, however, that the find spot of the *Llanmadog* brooch was about 1 km from the church, and a good deal further from any of these other sites or finds.

### *The Llys Awel brooch* (Pl. v, A)

This is of bronze, the front retaining substantial signs of gilding. It measures 71 mm high by 74 mm wide; the hoop varies in width from 6 mm to 8 mm, the right arm being wider than the left: the triangular terminals expand to a width of 25 mm and are joined in the middle by a square bar. Opposite the terminals the hoop broadens into a round-ended panel with a central setting consisting of the remains of an amber bead. Each terminal has compartments for three settings, one at the neck, which is slightly larger, and two at the corners of the broad end. The outer two of the latter contain the remains

of amber beads; that at the neck of the left-hand terminal contains a complete globular bead of clear, pale blue glass; the three remaining compartments are empty. Each terminal is panelled concentrically by ribs joining the three settings. The whole of the surface is decorated with sunken panels of chip-carving; the hoop and the edges of the terminals have two-strand and three-strand plaitwork respectively; the central panel of the hoop, the central panels of the terminals and the bar connecting them all contain interlace of varying complexity.

*The Llys Awel terminal* (Pl. v, B)

This is also of bronze, with remains of gilding in the decoration. It is roughly triangular, measuring 35 mm in length, 24 mm in maximum width and 3 mm thick; a slight irregularity and thickening in the middle of the front edge suggests that it might have belonged to a pseudo-penannular brooch. The design consists of a circle surrounded by three lobes, two conforming to the outline of the wide end, the third extending inwards into the neck. The ribs defining the lobes are decorated with notches, which are continued round the point; the rib defining the circle is plain. At the end of the terminal, the point where the two lobes meet is marked by a small circular compartment for a setting; at the corresponding points on the sides are small crescentic mouldings representing, in terms of the design, the halves of similar compartments, which have either been trimmed away or were never complete; the centre of the circle is occupied by a further circular compartment. Within the circle is a continuous linear pattern including simple interlace, while the lobes contain related motifs, all in chip-carving. The central compartment is perforated, perhaps through a fault in the casting; the compartment at the end is perforated for a rivet, as is the trimmed point. These evidently held in place a plain loop of strip-bronze, 7 mm wide and 2 mm thick, reported to have been found in association. Fastened to the back of the terminal this would have given a maximum clearance of 13 mm; the back of the terminal is striated across the line of the loop, as if by wear caused by movement along a hoop. The obvious inference is that the terminal had been fashioned into the head of a makeshift composite-pin, whose shaft has not survived.

*The Trearddur Bay brooch* (Pl. v, C)

This find consisted of part of a bronze penannular brooch in two pieces, with fugitive signs of gilding in the decorated areas. Most of the hoop and one fractured terminal survive. When complete the brooch would have measured about 73 mm in height and 76 mm in width; the hoop is 5 mm wide and 3 mm thick, the terminals expanding to a maximum width of 25 mm. The hoop is decorated with a sunken, square-ended panel of interlace with a central boss. Just above the neck of the terminal the hoop is finely ridged. The design of the terminal is based, as is the Llys Awel fragment, on a three-lobed circle. Again the outlines of two of the lobes conform to the shape of the broad end, but a boss replaces the central compartment, and there are no compartments where the lobes meet the circle, but merely ribs linking the circle to the edge of the brooch. The circle and the lobes have chip-carved interlace decoration consisting of a symmetrical pattern of interlaced arcs.

The neck of the terminal, where the third lobe might have been expected, contains a backward-looking, S-shaped beast, its body double-contoured and hatched across its width. The details of most of the head have been removed by the fracture, but the jaws appear to have been splayed. The front leg turns up vertically in front to form the edge of the panel; the hind leg is angled diagonally upward behind the body and above the head.

*The Llanmadog brooch* (Pl. v, D)

This is of bronze, and is complete, though its pin has been fractured. It is 37 mm wide and 35 mm high; the hoop is of oval section, with a width of 4 mm expanding to 13 mm at the terminals. The pin is 58 mm long, tapering in width from 4 mm to 1.5 mm; it is hooked over the hoop, the pin-head and upper part of the shank being decorated with a simple pattern of engraved lines and crosses. The terminals consist of a central decorated lozenge contained between two straight, double-lobed elements, which lie across the axis of the hoop. A short length of the hoop adjoining each terminal is lightly ridged.

*Discussion*

The *Llys Awel brooch* belongs to a closely related group of cast, pseudo-penannular brooches represented by those from Pierowall<sup>2</sup> and Eidfjord,<sup>3</sup> as well as by a brooch in the collection of the Royal Irish Academy, unprovenanced but presumably an Irish find.<sup>4</sup> The triangular terminals of these brooches have a 'concentric' layout with three circular settings, and their hoops have a round-ended panel with a single setting; terminals, panel and hoop

are all decorated with chip-carving. The Pierowall brooch, from a Viking grave on Westray, Orkney, which was converted into a true penannular brooch in antiquity,<sup>5</sup> offers the best parallel, being so strikingly similar in detail that it must surely be from the same pattern. Somewhat more elaborate versions of the same design can be seen in the Bonsall<sup>6</sup> and Bergøy<sup>7</sup> brooches, but all are ultimately derived from the prestigious 8th-century group of filigree-decorated brooches which includes the Hunterston<sup>8</sup> and Dunbeath<sup>9</sup> brooches, the two in which their characteristics are best pre-figured. A parallel development from the same group, in which two of the circular settings on the terminal are replaced by L-shaped corner-pieces, can be seen in two brooches from Mull<sup>10</sup> and in an unprovenanced brooch from Scotland.<sup>11</sup>

The Pierowall, Eidfjord and Bergøy brooches suggest a predominantly Viking *milieu* for this group, and it could well have been through this agency that the Llys Awel brooch reached the N. coast of Wales, where 9th-century Viking activity is well attested.<sup>12</sup>

The question of where they were made is more problematical, for they display a blend of Pictish and Irish elements which makes them stylistically ambiguous. Of the twelve brooches cited above, seven retain their pins, four of which are composite, the usual Irish form (Hunterston, Mull, Bonsall and Llys Awel, which is perhaps a replacement), and three simple, hooked types, the usual Pictish form (Pierowall, Bergøy and Mull). Some have been converted into true penannular forms (Dunbeath, Mull, Pierowall and Bergøy). An origin in western Scotland might help to explain this mixture of traits. The Dunadd motif-piece,<sup>13</sup> so similar to the brooch from Coll,<sup>14</sup> implies the existence there of a manufacturing tradition (confirmed by Dr Alan Lane's recent discoveries of mould-fragments), which included brooches of comparable form.<sup>15</sup>

The *Trearddur Bay brooch* and *Llys Awel terminal* are more difficult to parallel precisely, though their derivation is clear enough. They both display devolved versions of the three-lobed form of terminal that occurs in the brooches from Rogart, Caithness,<sup>16</sup> and Skryne, Co. Meath;<sup>17</sup> a more elaborate example can be seen in an unprovenanced brooch in the Royal Irish Academy collection.<sup>18</sup> The form has long been seen to be derived from more elaborate brooches such as those from Breadalbane,<sup>19</sup> Snâsa<sup>20</sup> and Dunscaughlin (Lagore),<sup>21</sup> in which the three-lobed circle is placed on the triangular terminal. An unprovenanced brooch from Ireland, in which the triangle has been abandoned, marks the transition.<sup>22</sup> The greater degree of devolution of the form, and the plain, finely ribbed hoop of the Trearddur Bay specimen point to a 9th-century date.

To parallel the Trearddur Bay brooch's animal ornament one must turn again to the Hunterston brooch and its derivatives, where, first in filigree and later in cast chip-carving, similar S-shaped beasts are not uncommon. They can occur notably in the central panel of the terminal (Dunbeath, Mull) or of the pin (Hunterston). The location of the Trearddur Bay animal in the neck of the brooch seems, however, to be unparalleled. The details of its form are familiar: e.g. the vertically-angled front leg can be seen on the Dunipace pin<sup>23</sup> and on a brooch from Co. Meath<sup>24</sup> in the British Museum collection, as well as on a bone motif-piece from Dublin;<sup>25</sup> the diagonal hind leg on the Hunterston and Bonsall brooches, and on a pin from Co. Offaly<sup>26</sup> also in the British Museum; the backward-turning head and splayed jaws on the Mull and Westness brooches.<sup>27</sup>

While it would, once again, be unwise to be dogmatic about where this brooch is likely to have been made, it does appear to have stronger Irish characteristics — the three-lobed terminal, the square-ended panel — than the Llys Awel brooch.

What is immediately evident about the *Llanmadog brooch* is the essential similarity of its terminals to the early 'zoomorphic' forms, the lobed element at the neck corresponding to the earlier 'eyes', and the lozenge representing a decorated but otherwise little altered version of the top of the head.<sup>28</sup> The similarity, however, is not likely to have any chronological relevance when it comes to dating the Llanmadog brooch, whose best parallels again come from Viking contexts. The most striking noted so far is a penannular brooch from a kitchen midden near Aignish Church, Lewis,<sup>29</sup> and a pseudo-penannular example from Ferkingstad, Skudenes (Norway).<sup>30</sup> Another slightly more developed but closely related brooch is a

probable Irish find, which chiefly differs from the Llanmadog brooch in having a large stud at the neck.<sup>31</sup> All three appear to occupy a place early in the series of brooches whose terminals contain lozenge-shaped (or rhomboid) elements, which suggests an 8th-/early 9th-century dating. Two lines of development from these prototypes seem apparent: one develops the open-work decoration seen on the Ferkingstad brooch to produce forms like the brooch from Killucan, Co. Westmeath,<sup>32</sup> the other, stud-decorated form leads to the type of terminal seen on the elaborate pseudo-penannular brooches from Killamery, Tara and Ardagh,<sup>33</sup> in which a rhomboidal panel is set in a relatively plain triangular plate.

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#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales, *Anglesey Inventory* (London, 1937), xciv and 22a; *Archaeol. J.*, III (1846), 223–28.

<sup>2</sup> H. Shetelig, *Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland II — Viking Antiquities in Scotland* (Oslo, 1940), 93–94, fig. 53b; D. M. Wilson, 'IV — The brooches' in A. Small, C. Thomas and D. M. Wilson, *St Ninian's Isle and its treasure* (Oxford, 1973), 81–105, pl. XLVc.

<sup>3</sup> A. Mahr and J. Raftery, *Christian Art in Ancient Ireland* (Dublin, 1932) pl. 23.1.

<sup>4</sup> W. R. Wilde, *Catalogue of the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy* (Dublin, 1857), 564, no. 369. I am indebted to Mrs N. Whitfield for drawing my attention to this brooch.

<sup>5</sup> Cf. R. B. K. Stevenson, 'The Hunterston brooch and its significance', *Medieval Archaeol.*, 18 (1974), 16–42 (p. 37); the brooches cited here are to be found in the second group of Dr Stevenson's table III.

<sup>6</sup> R. A. Smith, 'Irish brooches of five centuries', *Archaeologia* 65 (1913–14), 229, fig. 5.

<sup>7</sup> Shetelig, op. cit. in note 2, vol. V, 42–44, fig. 43a.

<sup>8</sup> Stevenson, loc. cit. in note 5.

<sup>9</sup> J. Anderson, *Scotland in Early Christian times* (Second series, Edinburgh, 1881), 16, fig. 11.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 13–15, figs. 8 and 9; Wilson, op. cit. in note 2, pl. XLVIII.

<sup>11</sup> Smith, op. cit. in note 6, pl. XXVI.8.

<sup>12</sup> H. R. Loyn, *The Vikings in Britain* (London, 1977), 53–54.

<sup>13</sup> Wilson, op. cit. in note 2, pl. Lb.

<sup>14</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scotland*, 15 (1880–81), 80, fig. 1.

<sup>15</sup> The triangular terminals of the truly Pictish north-eastern group represented in the St Ninian's Isle treasure (Wilson, op. cit. in note 2, nos. 17, 18) and the Birsay moulds (*Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scotland*, 105 (1972–74), 303–05, fig. 2e) tend to have a more flaring outline.

<sup>16</sup> Wilson, op. cit. in note 2, pl. XXXVIIId.

<sup>17</sup> Smith, op. cit. in note 6, pl. 26.3.

<sup>18</sup> Wilde, op. cit. in note 4, no. 469.

<sup>19</sup> Mahr and Raftery, op. cit. in note 3, pl. 13.4.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, pl. 23.6.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, pl. 20.3.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, pl. 62.3.

<sup>23</sup> Anderson, op. cit. in note 9, 24, fig. 20.

<sup>24</sup> B.M. 93.6–18.29.

<sup>25</sup> U. O'Meadhra, *Motif-pieces from Ireland* (Stockholm, 1979), 27A, 8.

<sup>26</sup> B.M. 54.7–14.139.

<sup>27</sup> R. B. K. Stevenson in B. Niclasen (ed.) *The Fifth Viking Congress* (Tórshavn, 1968).

<sup>28</sup> See H. E. Kilbride-Jones, *Zoomorphic Penannular Brooches* (Soc. of Antiquaries Research Report No. XXXIX, London 1980), e.g. no. 3 (Ford of Toome, Lough Neagh) and no. 83 (Lough Ravel, Randalstown, Co. Antrim).

<sup>29</sup> *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scotland*, 68 (1933–34), 429–30 (fig. 1.4).

<sup>30</sup> H. Shetelig (ed.), *Viking Antiquities in Great Britain and Ireland V — British Antiquities of the Viking Period in Norway* (Jan Petersen), 188–89 and fig. 160.

<sup>31</sup> Smith, op. cit. in note 6, pl. 26.2.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, fig. 11.

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, pl. 27.3; pl. 26.7 and fig. 14.