great caution; in the case of the Turin MS, for instance, *CLA* (4: 457) suggests that the dry-point material is L. rather than OIr.

The glosses in the Codex Usserianus Primus are dated to the 7th c. by Bischoff (1954: 197) and, according to Ó Neill (1998: 26, n. 24), the glosses in the Oxford MS date to the second quarter of the 12th century. Therefore, Ó Neill sees these two MS witnesses as evidence that there might be an unbroken tradition of dry-point gloss activities spanning five centuries, which leads him to the conclusion “that other Irish witnesses to dry-point glossing remain to be identified” (1998: 2).

### 2.4.5 Dry-Point Glossing in Old Slavonic

A comparatively small corpus of Old Slavonic dry-point glosses has been identified so far in three MSS (cf. Nievergelt 2007: 64–65, n. 11), namely Zürich, Zentralbibliothek Ms. C 78 (cf. Nievergelt 2003; Nievergelt & Schaeken 2003; BStK: 1920–1922 [no. 1019b]), Prague, Metropolitní Kapitula U SV. Vita A CLXXIII (cf. Patera 1878) and München, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Clm 14 008 (cf. BMS 1: 90–91). Nievergelt (2007: 65, n. 11) notes that the authenticity of the dry-point material in the Prague MS has been put into question in connection with the suspected forgeries of Old Slavonic and OHG ink glosses in a number of Prague MSS by the Czech philologist Vaclav Hanka (1791–1861). Nievergelt deems forgery of the dry-point glosses to be very unlikely, arguing that the large number of undecipherable dry-point glosses (over 94) would not be in line with forgery.

### 2.4.6 Dry-Point Glossing in East Asia

Pre-modern dry-point glossing is not limited to the European Middle Ages, but it is also reported from East Asian MSS. More than 3,000 Japanese MSS bearing dry-point glosses have been identified since Prof. Yoshinori Kobayashi discovered the phenomenon in 1961. The oldest specimens of this so-called *kakuhitsu* writing identified so far date to AD 749 and the most recent specimens date to AD 1910, spanning more than eleven centuries of continuous dry-point practice. In 1993, Kobayashi and a colleague of his, Prof. Yasukazu Yoshizawa, discovered similar dry-point writing in 16 MSS from Dunhuang (China), now kept in the

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84 A short bibliography on the topic (which, considering the rapid development of this field, is unfortunately slightly dated) can be found at the project website “A Dig and an Investigation and a Study of Stylus-Impressed Writing in Every Place of Western Japan. Development and a Study of a Instrument for Decoding Stylus-Impressed Characters”, URL: <http://kaken.nii.ac.jp/d/p/09410111/1999/6/en.en.html>. Nievergelt (2007: 63, n. 6) also lists a number of publications on the subject.

85 *Kakuhitsu* is the Romanization of the Japanese word for ‘stylus’, kanji: 角筆.