

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS IN CONTEXT

Gerard Manley Hopkins was one of the most innovative British poets of the nineteenth century. This book provides an authoritative guide to the ideas and influences shaping Hopkins's life and writing. Consisting of thirty-eight essays by leading scholars, the book covers topics that have long attracted scholarly attention while also responding to recent critical trends. It considers Hopkins's formal innovations alongside his theological and philosophical ideas. Chapters examine his Victorian aesthetic and cultural contexts as well as the significance of his ecological imagination and response to environmental degradation. Hopkins's poetry was not widely known until the 1930s, and the book closes by discussing the distinctive nature of its reception and influence. Informed by new research but accessibly written, the essays enable a fresh engagement with the originality of Hopkins's writing and thought.

MARTIN DUBOIS is Associate Professor in the Department of English Studies at Durham University. His book *Gerard Manley Hopkins and the Poetry of Religious Experience* was published by Cambridge University Press in 2017. He is the author of the chapter on Hopkins in *The Oxford Handbook of Victorian Poetry* (2013).

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS IN CONTEXT

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Note on Editions and Abbreviations

All quotations from Hopkins's poetry are taken from Catherine Phillips's edition, *Gerard Manley Hopkins: The Major Works* (Oxford University Press, 2002). Citations are in-text and by line number.

Unless otherwise noted, all quotations from Hopkins's other writings are taken from *The Collected Works of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, edited by Lesley Higgins and Michael F. Suarez, SJ (Oxford University Press, 2006–). This edition is abbreviated in the notes as *CW*. The edition records cancelled words and other deletions, as well as insertions. For clarity of text, these are included only where relevant to the focus of a given chapter.

Chronology

1844	Gerard Manley Hopkins is born on 28 July in Stratford, a village in Essex just to the east of London. He is the first child of Manley and Catherine Hopkins, née Smith.
1852	The Hopkins family moves to Hampstead in north London.
1854	Hopkins starts as a boarding pupil at Highgate School.
1863	Wins an exhibition scholarship to Balliol College, Oxford.
April 1866	Enters Balliol.
July	Decides that he will convert to Roman Catholicism.
October	Received into the Roman Catholic Church by John Henry Newman.
1867	
June	Graduates from Oxford with a first class degree.
September	Begins teaching at Newman’s Oratory School in Birmingham.
1868	
May	Decides to become a priest. He burns copies of his poems as part of a new resolution to concentrate on his religious vocation.
September	Enters the Jesuit novitiate at Roehampton, London, to commence his Jesuit training.
1870	Takes his first vows as a Jesuit and moves to St Mary’s Hall, Stonyhurst, Lancashire, to begin a three-year course of study in philosophy.

xxii	<i>Chronology</i>
1873	Returns to Roehampton to spend a year teaching rhetoric.
1874	Starts a three-year course of study in theology at St Beuno's in North Wales.
1875	Begins to write 'The Wreck of the Deutschland'.
1877	
February–September	Writes 'God's Grandeur', 'The Starlight Night', 'As kingfishers catch fire', 'The Windhover', 'Pied Beauty', and 'Hurrahing in Harvest', among other poems.
September	Ordained as a priest.
October	Begins a spell of secondary-school teaching at Mount St Mary's College, near Sheffield.
1878	
April	Moves back to Stonyhurst to a teaching role preparing students for external university degrees. Writes 'The Loss of the Eurydice'.
July–September	Acts as curate and, for a month, as Select Preacher at the Jesuit church in Mayfair, London.
December	Becomes curate at St Aloysius's Church, Oxford.
1879	
March–October	Writes 'Binsey Poplars' and 'Henry Purcell', among other poems.
October	Moves to become curate at St Joseph's Church, Bedford Leigh, Lancashire.
December	Appointed Select Preacher at the church of Saint Francis Xavier in Liverpool.
1880	Writes 'Felix Randal' and 'Spring and Fall'.
1881	
August	Takes up a temporary post as curate at St Joseph's Church in Glasgow. Writes 'Inversnaid'.
October	At Roehampton, embarks upon the final period of his formal religious formation as a Jesuit, called the tertianship.
1882	Returns to Stonyhurst to teach Classics. Completes 'The Leaden Echo and the Golden Echo' and writes 'Ribblesdale'.
1884	Elected to a fellowship of the Royal University of Ireland and appointed Professor of Greek and Latin Literature at University College Dublin.

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1885	Likely to have written most of the poems later to become known as the ‘terrible sonnets’.
1886	Completes ‘Spelt from Sibyl’s Leaves’.
1888	Writes ‘That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire’.
1889	Falls ill with typhoid fever in May. This later develops into peritonitis. He dies on 8 June.