

GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS AND THE POETRY OF RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

This nuanced yet accessible study is the first to examine the range of religious experience imagined in Hopkins's writing. By exploring the shifting way in which Hopkins imagines religious belief in individual history, Martin Dubois contests established views of his poetry as a unified project. Combining detailed close readings with extensive historical research, Dubois argues that the spiritual awareness manifest in Hopkins's poetry is varied and fluctuating, and that this is less a failure of his intellectual system than a sign of the experiential character of much of his poetry's thought. Individual chapters focus on biblical language and prayer, as well as on the spiritual ideal seen in the figures of the soldier and the martyr, and on Hopkins's ideas of death, judgement, heaven, and hell. Offering fresh interpretations of the major poems, this volume reveals a more diverse and exploratory poet than has been recognised.

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RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE

MARTIN DUBOIS

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In memory of Elfrieda Dubois

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Note on Editions and Abbreviations

I have chosen to cite Hopkins's poems from Norman MacKenzie's 1990 edition *The Poetical Works of Gerard Manley Hopkins* because it includes the largest number of Hopkins's metrical marks of any edition as well as uncanceled variants in several of his poems. It is hereafter cited as *PW*. I have departed from the practice of this edition in two ways: first, in respect of caesurae, which are here marked by a double vertical bar (||) rather than a single vertical bar so that they can be differentiated from line breaks in in-text quotations; and second, in using line breaks to represent the structural divisions of the sonnet Hopkins indicated by braces in the left margin while he was in the process of drafting some later poems. I often comment upon Hopkins's metrical marks, but readers wanting further guidance should consult MacKenzie's detailed explanation in *PW*, lii–lix, or the notes given in Catherine Phillips's edition, *Gerard Manley Hopkins: The Major Works*, rev. edn (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), p. 307.

The new *Collected Works of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, being published in eight volumes by Oxford University Press under the general editorship of Lesley Higgins and Michael F. Suarez, S.J., will become the standard edition. So far five volumes have appeared: volumes I and II, *Correspondence*, ed. by R. K. R. Thornton and Catherine Phillips (2013); volume III, *Diaries, Journals, and Notebooks*, ed. by Lesley Higgins (2015); volume IV, *Oxford Essays and Notes*, ed. by Lesley Higgins (2006); and volume VII, *The Dublin Notebook*, ed. by Lesley Higgins and Michael F. Suarez, S.J. (2014). These are hereafter cited as *CW*. I have used the *CW* editions wherever possible but otherwise rely on older editions (listed here). The *CW* editions preserve cancelled words and other deletions in his prose writings; the transcription of the Dublin notebook also holds to Hopkins's spacing. For clarity of text, these are only included when relevant to my argument.

Note on Editions and Abbreviations

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- CW* *The Collected Works of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, ed. by Lesley Higgins and Michael Suarez, S.J. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006–)
- EPM* *The Early Poetic Manuscripts of Gerard Manley Hopkins in Facsimile*, ed. by Norman H. MacKenzie (New York and London: Garland, 1989)
- Gonzaga* Gerard Manley Hopkins Collection, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington
- J&P* *The Journals and Papers of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, ed. by Humphry House and Graham Storey (London: Oxford University Press, 1959)
- LPM* *The Later Poetic Manuscripts of Gerard Manley Hopkins in Facsimile*, ed. by Norman H. MacKenzie (New York and London: Garland, 1991)
- MW* *Gerard Manley Hopkins: The Major Works*, ed. by Catherine Phillips (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002)
- PW* *The Poetical Works of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, ed. by Norman H. MacKenzie (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1990)
- S* *The Sermons and Devotional Writings of Gerard Manley Hopkins*, ed. by Christopher Devlin (London: Oxford University Press, 1959)