Gerard Manley Hopkins

a brief biography, and
overview of English Christianity
English, pre-19th c. Christianity

- Act of Uniformity (1549)
- Five Mile Act (1665)
- The Test Acts
  - 1673 Act: take Oath of Supremacy
  - 1678 Act: reject transubstantiation, invocation of saints, sacrifice of the mass
- Toleration Act (1689)
- Evangelicalism (began in 1730s)
Evangelicalism
(1730s & following)

- conversionism (sharing the good news)
- activism (social justice, abolition, etc.)
- Biblicism (individual reading & interpretation)
- Crucientrism (Christ’s example, death, & resurrection)
Victorian Christianity

- 1828: Repeal of the Test Acts
- 1829: Catholic Relief Act
- 1833-41: Oxford Movement (Tracts for the Times, branch theory, critique of erastianism, etc.)
- 1845: J. H. Newman converts from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism
Gerard M. Hopkins: Academia

- 1854-63: Highgate grammar school
- 1863-67: Balliol College, Oxford
  - G. Herbert and C. Rossetti
  - Walter Pater (tutor)
  - John Henry Newman (mentor)
- 1867: wins first-class degrees in both Classics and “Greats”
- 1882-84: teaches Latin & Greek at Stonehurst College, Lancashire
- 1884: professor of Greek & Latin at University College, Dublin
Gerard M. Hopkins: Family & Faith

- 1844: High Church Anglican parents
- 1865: penance & “discipline of the eyes”
- 1866: becomes Catholic under influence of John H. Newman
- 1868: joins Jesuits; burns some poems
- 1872: reads writings of medieval Catholic Don Scotus; “haecceitas”
- 1877: ordained as priest; serves 5 years as parish priest
Poetry & Poetics

• 1860s: writes poems in manner of John Keats
• 1876: “The Wreck of the Deutschland”
• innovations: coins terms, new compound words, reorders syntax, ellipsis, repetition
• sprung rhythm
• inscape
• instress
• 1918: Robert Bridges (friend & now Poet Laureate) gets Hopkins’s poems to a publisher