

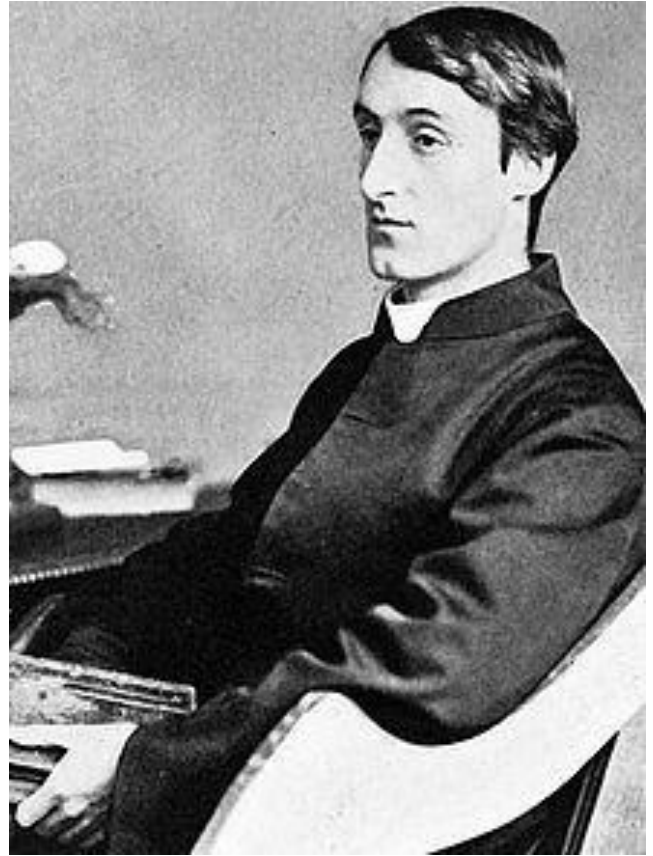


Garden wall at the Villa Carlotta, overlooking Lake Como / Rita Crane

PIED BEAUTY

Glory be to God for dappled things—
For skies of couple-colour as a brinded cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced—fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise Him.



Gerard Manley Hopkins at his desk in 1880

When Gerard Manley Hopkins became a Jesuit in 1868, he symbolically burned his poems – though he sent copies to his friend Robert Bridges (who later became Poet Laureate) before he did so. *Pied Beauty* was written ten years later, while he was studying for ordination. When he died of typhoid in 1889 at the age of 45, only a couple of his poems had been published. It was Bridges who eventually published them in his *Poems* in 1918, when he judged that the public was ready to receive Hopkins' 'oddity'. A major English poet was revealed, whose reputation has grown ever since.

The dappled, hyphenated and alliterative words of this poem create their own pied beauty.

Glory be to God for Gerard Manley Hopkins