

The week the weather stopped



'...in the County of Dublin'

Meteorological Records from TCD

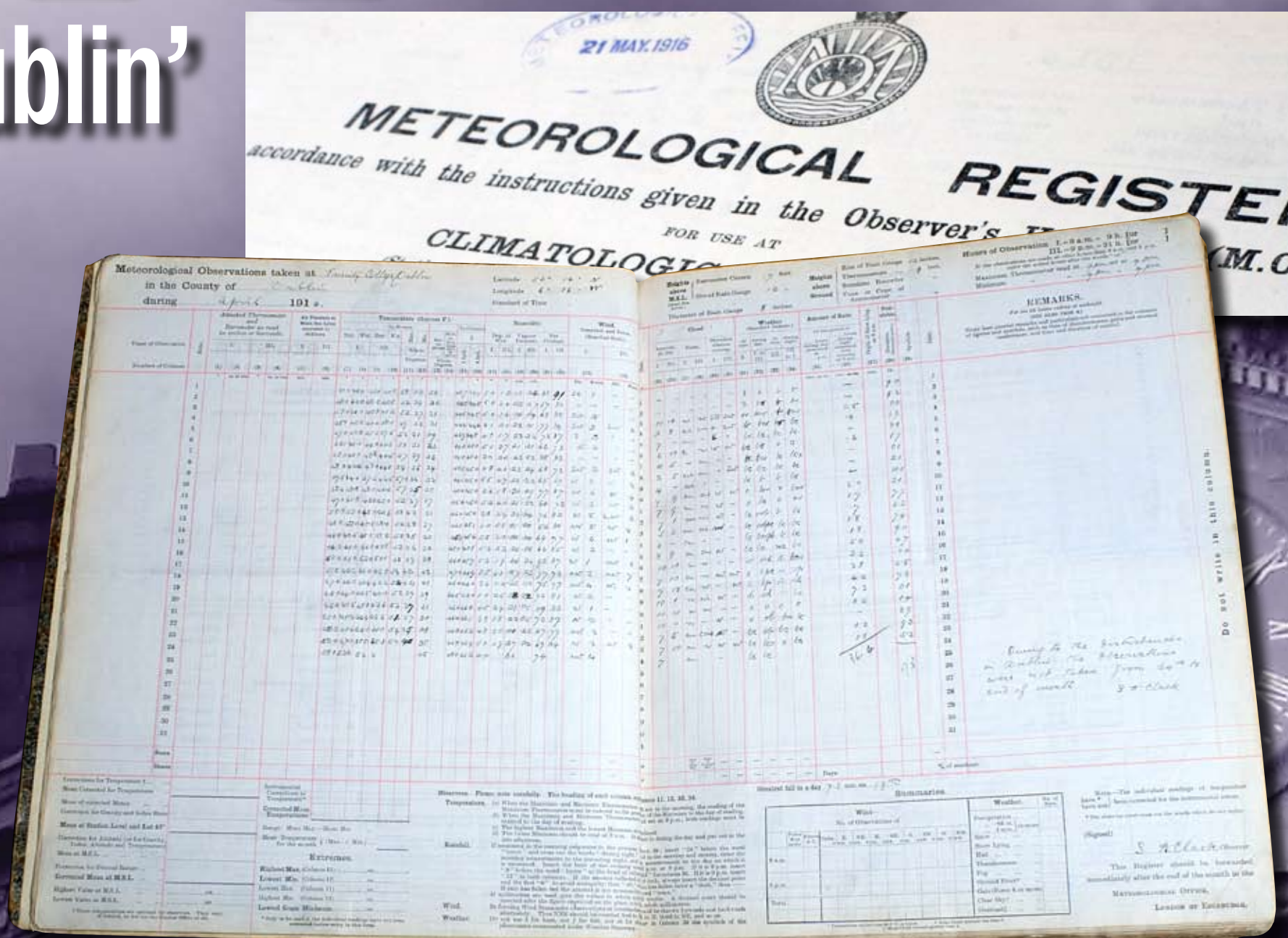
The Met Éireann Library holds meteorological records from Trinity College Dublin from 1904 to 1959.

The observations were handwritten on broadsheet-sized templates, which were issued by the Meteorological Office in London.

At 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. daily, readings for atmospheric pressure, temperature, wind direction, wind speed, cloud cover and rainfall (among other data) were recorded.

Each template sheet also had a field for 'Remarks', where observers could record additional information.

Generally, an observer might record a thunderstorm, a gale or another unusual weather event in this field but on one occasion, something different was recorded.



'...observations not taken...'

Easter 1916

The image to the right shows the 'Remarks' made by an observer at TCD in April 1916.

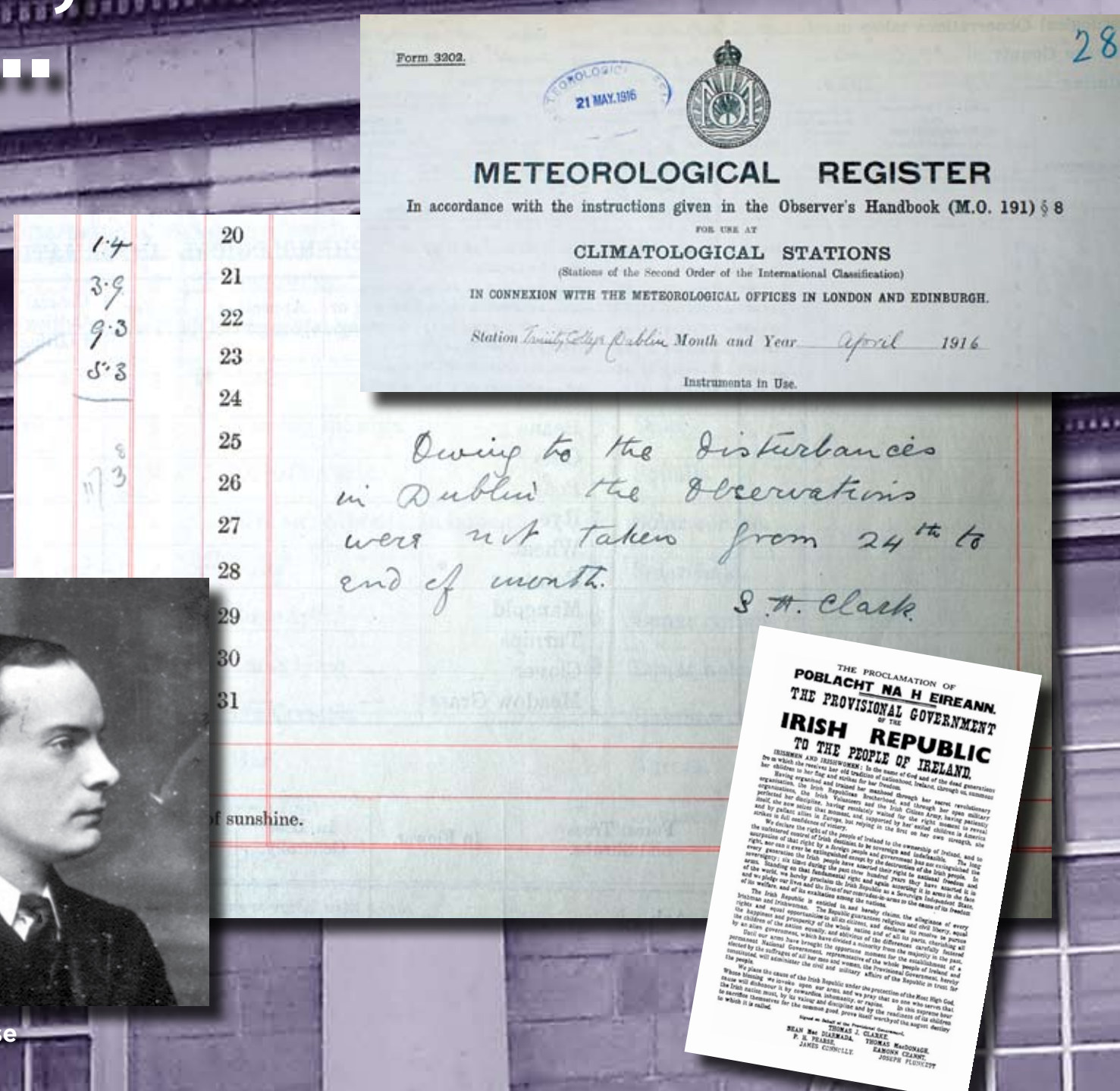
He writes 'Owing to the disturbances in Dublin the observations were not taken from 24th to end of month.'

It was, of course, on the 24th of April 1916, that Patrick Pearse stood outside the G.P.O. to read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic.

The 'disturbances' to which our observer referred was the start of the Easter Rising.

The meteorological records did not resume again until 18th May 1916.

For a period of almost four weeks, weather recordings at TCD stopped.



Patrick Pearse

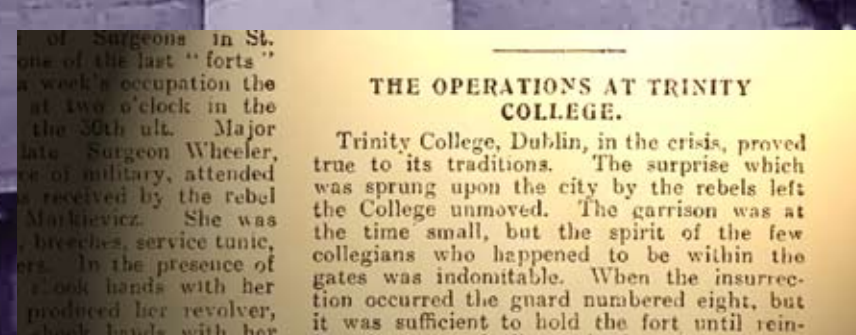
'...true to its traditions'

TCD and the 1916 Rising

Due to its central location in the city, Trinity College Dublin held an important strategic position in the Easter Rising.

It was defended by TCD students and graduates and soldiers from nearby Dublin Castle. For three days, the fighting at TCD was critical and in the end, the volunteers were unable to capture the college.

According to the 'Sinn Féin' Rebellion Handbook, Easter 1916', which was published by *The Irish Times* shortly after the Rising, Trinity College Dublin was a 'gallant garrison' that 'proved true to its traditions' in the crisis.



Sackville Street, Dublin after the 1916 Easter Rising

'Naming the Rebellion'

From 'disturbances' to 'rebellion'

When the meteorological records resumed on 18th May 1916, they were accompanied by another, slightly different, note in the 'Remarks' field.

It read: 'Owing to the rebellion in Dublin the observations were not taken in at that time.'

The 'disturbances' of April 1916 were now referred to as a 'rebellion'.

Both 'Remarks' were made by the same observer, S.A. Clark, whose name appears on TCD's meteorological records from January 1914.

Unfortunately, we know very little about this observer. Did he help to defend TCD from the volunteers? Why does his name not appear after May 1916? Was he replaced for a particular reason?

S.A. Clark

