



4.0 Seachtar Sínitheoirí an Fhorógra

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh

Tomás Ó Cléirigh, ball de Rialtas Sealadach Phoblacht na hÉireann. Ba é poblacht na hÉireann an sprioc a bhí aige.

Rugadh Tomás J. (Tom) Ó Cléirigh (1858-1916) ar Inis locht amach ó chósta Shasana, áit a raibh a athair James Clarke, sáirsint in arm na Breataine, lonnaithe. Bhí James in Eaglais na hÉireann, ach tógadh Tom i gcreideamh a mháthair, Mary Palmer a bhí ina Caitliceach. Bhog an teaghlach chuig an Afraic Theas agus ina dhiaidh sin chuig Dún Geanainn, Co. Thír Eoghain áit ar fhás Tom aníos ó aois a sheacht mbliana, áit ar fhreastal sé ar scoil náisiúnta Naomh Pádraig. Fad is a bhí sé sna déaga, bhí sé ina bhall de na Fíníní, b'fhéidir mar fhreagairt ar ról a athar i gcothabháil impireacht na Breataine nó mar fhreagra ar theannas seicteach áitiúil.

I 1882, chuaigh Ó Cléirigh ar imirce chuig na Stáit Aontaithe, áit a ndeachaigh sé le Clan na Gael. In Aibreán na bliana ina dhiaidh sin, seoladh go Londain é ar mhisean a bhain pléascadh dinimít, ach rinne brathadóir feall air agus gabhadh é agus pléascáin ina sheilbh. Gearradh pianseirbhís ar fead a shaoil air, chaith sé cúig bliana déag i gcoinníollacha an-dona i bpríosúin na Breataine: Millbank, Chatham agus Portland. Insítear faoina thaithí ina chuimhní cinn *Glimpses of an Irish Felon's Prison Life* (1922). Tar éis é a scaoileadh amach ar choinníoll i 1898, chuaigh sé chuig na Stáit Aontaithe arís áit a bhfuair sé fostaíocht taitneamhach arís le ceannaire Clan na Gael John Devoy, lena n-áirítear tréimhse mar eagarthóir cunta ar nuachtán Devoy, an Gaelic American. Idir an dá linn, phós sé Kathleen Daly,

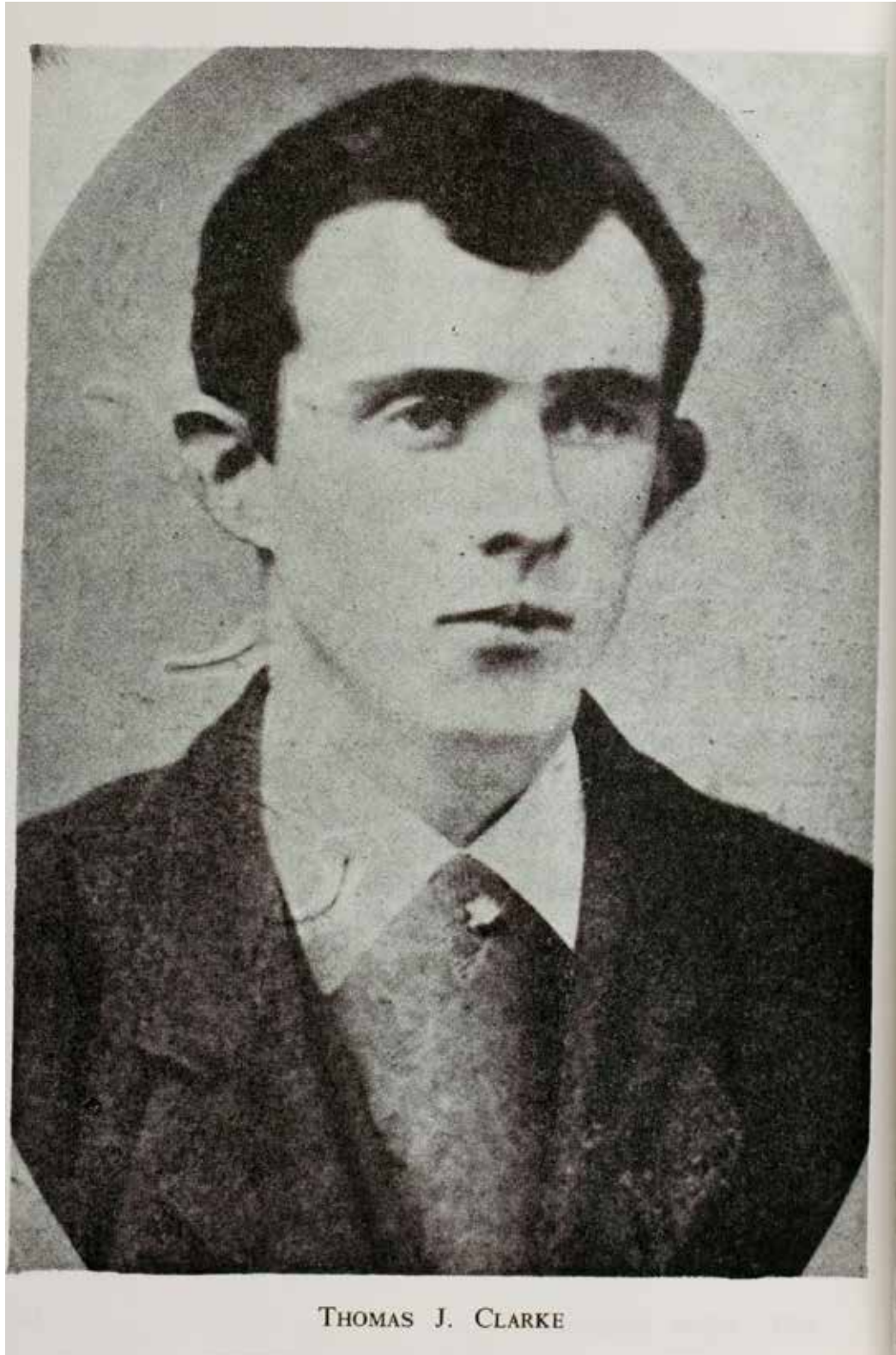
4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh

neacht leis an bhFíniúch John Daly a chaith tréimhse sa phríosún leis; ba deirfiúr í Kathleen le Edward (Ned) Daly, a cuireadh chun báis níos déanaí mar gheall ar an bpáirt a bhí aige in Éirí Amach 1916. Bhí triúr mac ag an lánúin.

Rinneadh saoránach de chuid na Stáit Aontaithe de Ó Cléirigh i 1905, ach d'fhill an teaghlach ar Bhaile Átha Cliath dhá bhliain ní ba dhéanaí, áit ar bhunaigh sé gnó de shiopa tobac/nuachtáin i Sráid na Breataine Móire (Sráid Parnell anois) agus Sráid Amiens. Ba é a bhí ag déanamh imní dó i gcónaí, áfach, poblacht na hÉireann a shlánú. Agus é fós amuigh ar choinníoll, choinnigh sé próifíl íseal, ach ba dhuine é a raibh tionchar aige sa chúlra sna blianta ina rabhtas ag réiteach d'Éirí Amach 1916. Mar aon le Denis McCullough, Bulmer Hobson agus, go háirithe, Seán Mac Diarmada, d'athbheoigh sé Bráithreachas Phoblacht na hÉireann, agus bhí ról mór aige i mbunú nuachtán na heagraíochta, Irish Freedom. Nuair a bunaíodh Óglaigh na hÉireann, d'aithin sé láithreach a n-acmhainneacht mar arm na réabhlóide. Ach, sheachain sé bheith ceaptha chuig aon oifig. B'fhuath leis gur scoilt Redmond an eagraíocht i Meán Fómhair 1914, ach thuig sé gurbh ionann na hÓglaigh a bhí fágtha agus fórsa níos éifeachtúla agus comhtháite agus formhór na mball tiomanta do phoblacht. D'fháiltigh sé roimh thús an Chéad Chogaidh Dhomhanda. Chonaic sé go mbeadh deis ag Éirinn agus Sasana san fhaopach. Bhí sé ina chomhalta d'Ardchomhairle an IRB, agus ag deireadh 1915 comhthoghadh é ar a Chomhairle Mhíleata a bhí freagrach as an Éirí Amach a phleanáil. Chruthaigh Ó Cléirigh an straitéis ghinearálta agus bhí Mac Diarmada freagrach as na mionsonraí; chomh maith leis sin, ba é Ó Cléirigh an príomhnasc le John Devoy, Joseph McGarrity agus le tacadóirí eile sna Stáit Aontaithe.

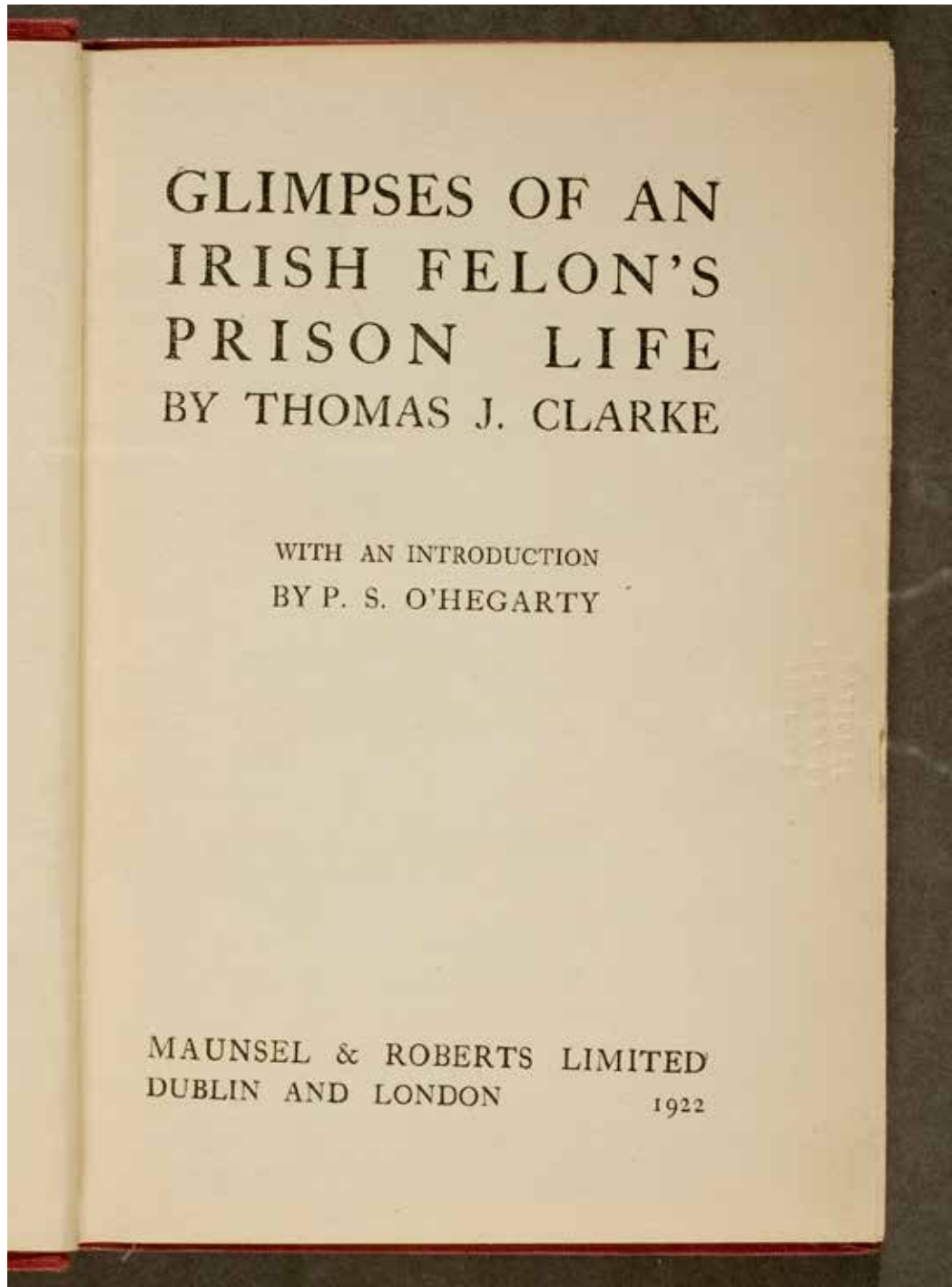
Mar gheall ar a shinsearach agus a ionchur thar na mblianta, tugadh an onóir do Ó Cléirigh a bheith ar an gcéad duine le Forógra Phoblacht na hÉireann a shíniú. I rith an Éirí Amach, d'fhan sé in Ard-Oifig an Phoist le formhór na mball den Rialtas Sealadach. Cuir sé i gcoinne an ghéillte, ach vótáil níos mó ar a shon. Cuireadh ar thriail armchúirte é. Bhí Tom Ó Cléirigh ar dhuine de thriúr reibiliúnaithe a cuireadh chun báis le scud lámhaigh ag Príosún Chill Mhaighneann ar an 3 Bealtaine. Mhair a bhean Kathleen Daly agus triúr leanaí.

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh



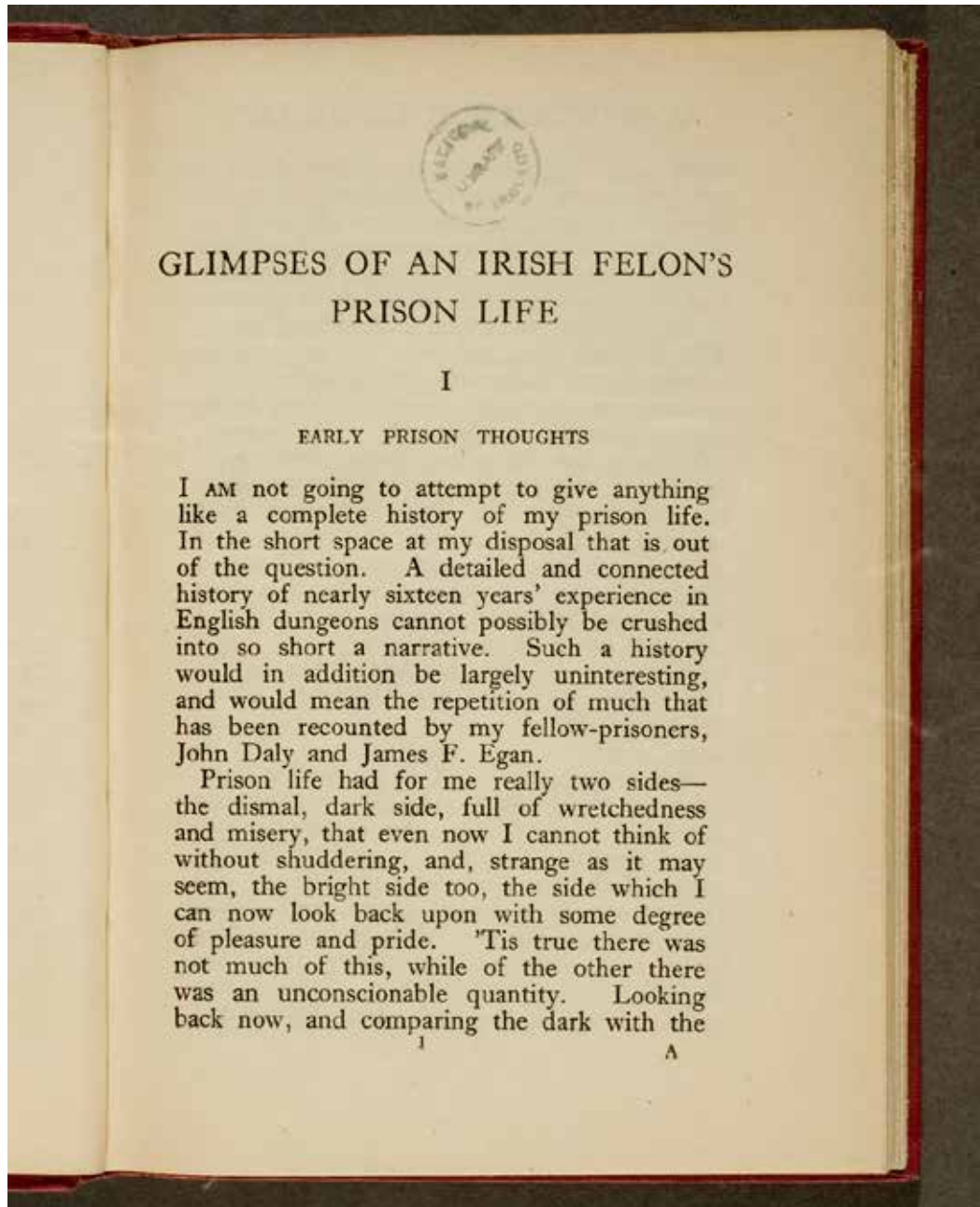
Clarke as a young man. He was later to become prematurely aged by his prison experiences.

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh



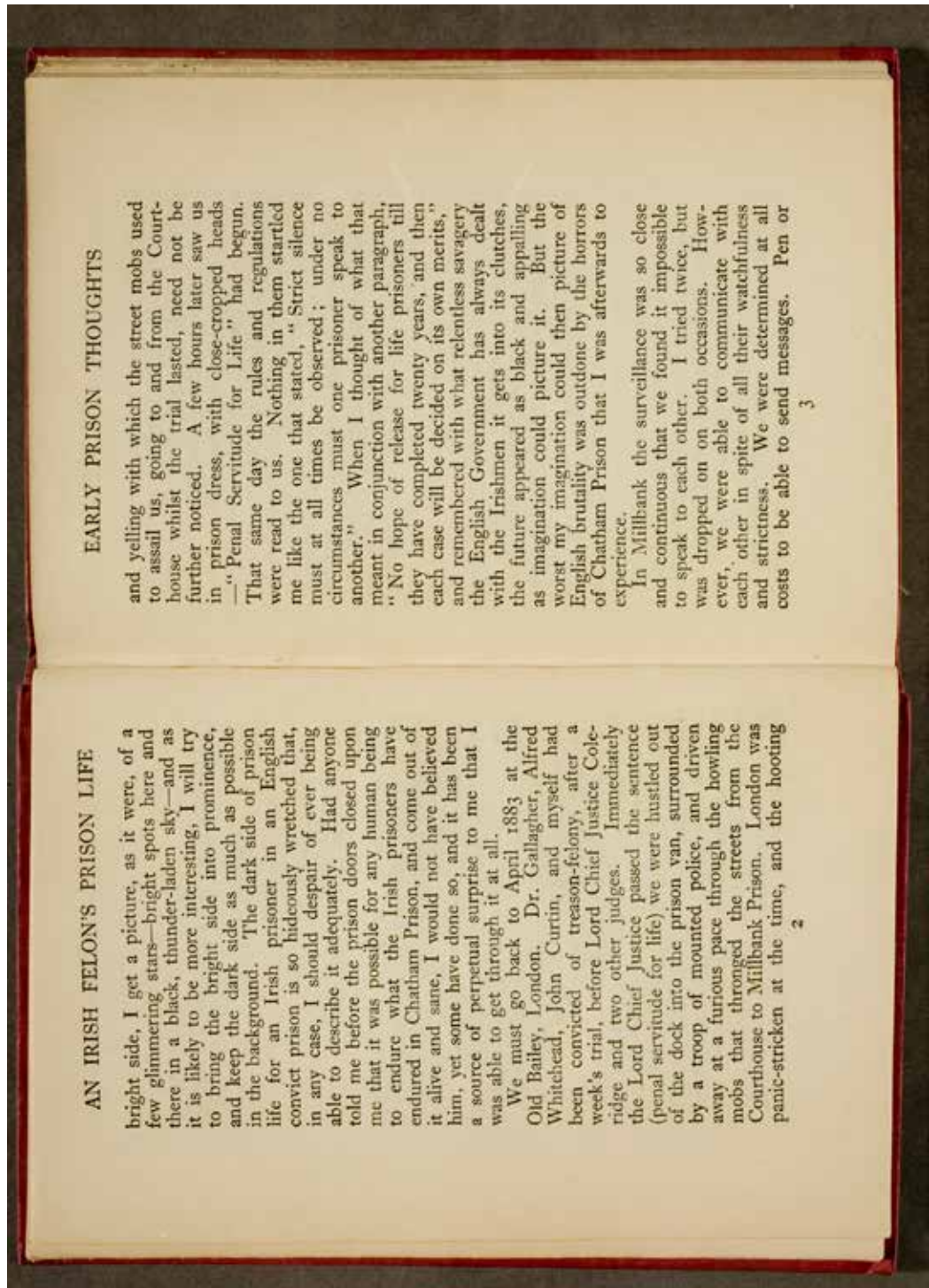
Pages from Clarke's recollections of his years in prison, published posthumously.

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh



Pages from Clarke's recollections of his years in prison, published posthumously.

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh



Pages from Clarke's recollections of his years in prison, published posthumously.

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh

April 11, 1901.

Dear Major. I got your telegram today & would
reply immediately. John is away & perhaps some
light could be thrown upon the question who is
the Hayes you mentioned - no name like that
is or near here & I suspect he must be
an A. O. H. man - In reference to the Fall
River, the Dist. Offr. of that Dist. John Dillon
wrote yesterday to the effect that both he & Cannon
(of Providence) had done their best to get up
meetings in Pawtucket, Taunton & Fall River
but failed - He said in reference to Fall River: -
"The Fall River people are afraid they could not
make it go without the A. O. H. & they would
want their share of the receipts & they might
be asking too many questions so the Dist. decided
upon these conditions" &c. they do not to undertake
meetings -

Dillon says he will see you in Providence
& square up for the Lonsdale meeting - the delay
he says was owing to his Sec. of Committee being
sick -

The Mayo ladies are cutting their heads together
here in order to be ready to make a presentation

Letter from Clarke to Major John MacBride, then on a lecture tour in the United States, 11 April 1901. (Ms. 26,761).

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh

Transcript

April 11, 1901.

Dear Major,

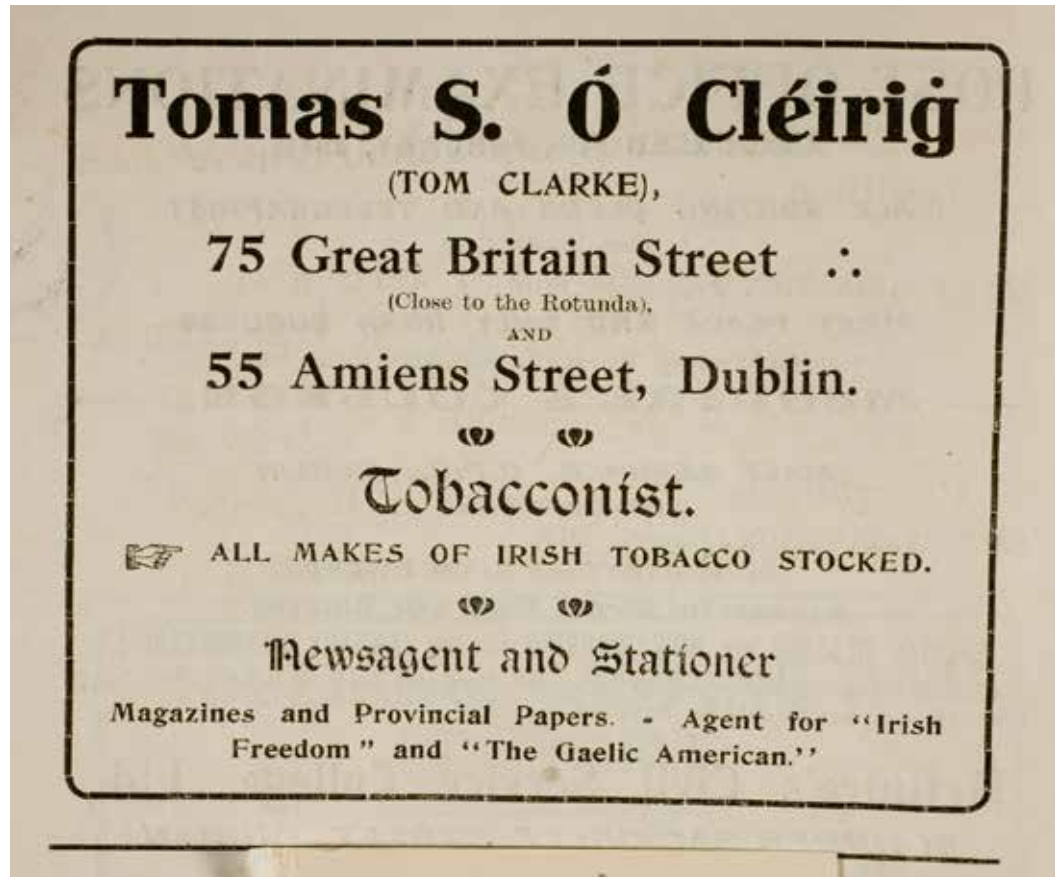
I got a telegram today and wired reply immediately. John is away and perhaps some light could be thrown upon the question who is the Haynes you mentioned. No name like that is on record here and I suspect he must be an A.O.H. [Ancient Order of Hibernians] man. In reference to Fall River, the district officer of that district, John Dillon, wrote yesterday to the effect that both he and Eamonn (of Providence) had done their best to get up meetings in Nantucket, Taunton and Fall River but failed. He said in reference to Fall River: 'The Fall River people are afraid they could not make it go without the A.O.H. and they would want their share of the receipts and they might be asking too many questions', so the district officer decided under those conditions not to undertake meetings.

Dillon says he will see you in Providence and square up for the Lonsdale meeting— the delay he says was owing to his secretary of committee being sick. The Mayo ladies are putting their heads together here in order to be ready to make a presentation to Major McBride when he returns. That will be news for you. Don't ask me what it is they are going to present. I don't know. Perhaps it's a wife—with a fervent wish that it may, I'll wind up this note. Trusting you are OK and Miss Gonne likewise.

Believe me, yours very sincerely, Thomas J. Clarke.

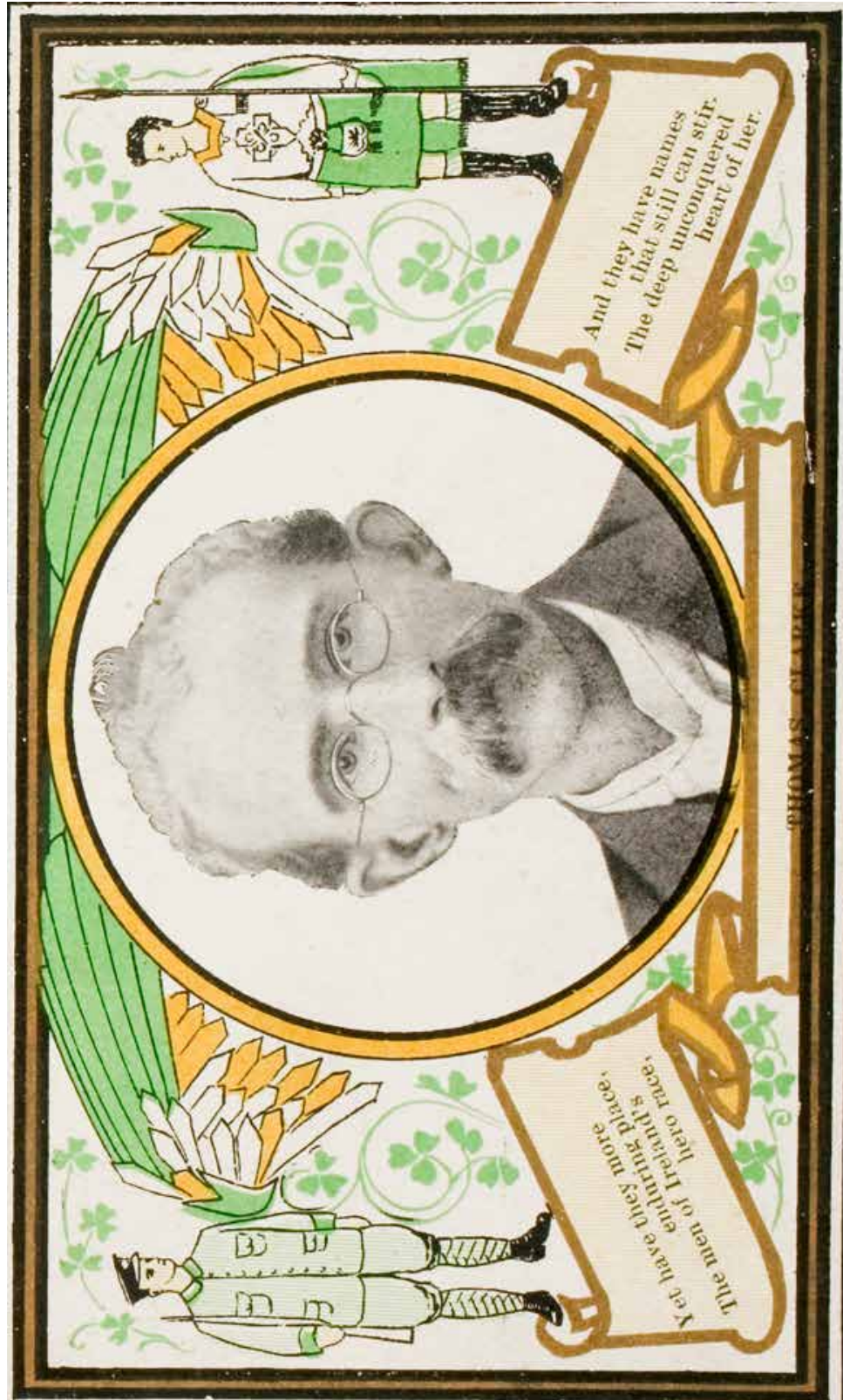
I was only able to get the copies of the New York World (with account of Chicago mutiny) through the mediation of Tom Lonergan. They only came last week. You got the copy I sent and the other papers, I suppose.

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh



Advertisement for Clarke's shops in Dublin taken from a brochure for the Sinn Féin Aonach na Nodlag 1910. (Ms. 13,069(26)).

4.1 Tomás Ó Cléirigh



A commemorative postcard.