COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Creator: Brill, Hascal R. (Hascal Russel), 1846-1922.
Title: Hascal R. Brill and family papers.
Abstract: Personal, family, and business correspondence, diaries, legal papers, articles, and genealogical materials of Brill, a St. Paul lawyer, judge, and trustee of Hamline University, and several members of his family.
Quantity: 11.5 cubic feet (23 boxes).
Location: P813: See Container list for box contents

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Hascal Russell Brill was born in Phillipsburg, Province of Quebec, Canada, August 10, 1846. He was the son of Thomas R. Brill and Sarah (Sager) Brill. The family moved to Kenyon, Minnesota in 1858. He attended Hamline University (then located in Red Wing, Minnesota) during the years 1862-1865, and the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1866. In 1867 he entered the law office of Judge E. C. Palmer of St. Paul to read law and was admitted to the bar December 31, 1869.

He was elected Probate Judge of Ramsey County in 1872 and in 1875 was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas by Governor Cushman K. Davis. This court merged with the District Court in 1876 and in 1882 Hascal Brill was elected to a position on that court. This position he held, by re-election every six years, until his death on March 1, 1922.

He became a member of the Market Street Methodist Episcopal Church (which later became the First Methodist Episcopal Church) in 1873 and took an active part in church affairs as member and president of the Official Board until his death.

He was a trustee of Hamline University from 1873 until 1922.

He married Cora Amelia Gray, born in Belleville Ohio, December 15, 1850, at Suspension Bridge, New York, on August 11, 1873. She was the daughter of Asahel and Abby Jane (Colt) Gray. Her letters and papers are included in this collection. Hascal and Cora Brill had six children.

Their son Kenneth Gray Brill, born in St. Paul in 1883, followed his father's profession of
the law, and in his turn became a judge of the District Court.

During World War I Kenneth Brill was active in the organization "Four Minute Men," a national group which was a part of the Committee of Public Information. He also worked during those years with the American Red Cross and the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety. At the time of his death he was President of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Edith Brill, born in 1876, and Alice Brill, born in 1889, daughters of Hascal Russell and Cora Gray Brill, both worked in the field of education and social welfare. Neither was married. Both have contributed manuscripts and articles to the collection of family papers.

William Hascal Brill, nephew of Hascal R. Brill, was born in 1871. He was a journalist and a reporter for various St. Paul newspapers. He was also a special writer for Newspaper Enterprise Association, The Associated Press, and Reuter's Agency of London, England.

Ethel Claire Brill, niece of Hascal R. Brill and sister of William H. Brill, was born in 1877. She was a writer of children's stories and of magazine articles and poems of which nature studies were the chief topics. She was unmarried.

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ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

The papers in the collection are arranged as follows:

Boxes 1-10. Correspondence and miscellaneous papers of the Hascal R. Brill family, undated, 1805, 1849-1964. The first box contains the undated material. The papers in boxes 2-10 are in chronological order.

Box 11. Brill, William H. Manuscripts and Dispatches, 1898-1922. The folders of dated papers are filed chronologically; the undated folders are filed in alphabetical order.


Box 15-18. Volumes. See volume inventory for a list of the volumes and for their location in the boxes.


DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

The Brill Papers were acquired between the years 1935 and 1968 in several different lots. Detailed information on particular dates may be found in the Accessions Record Books. Many of the older papers were not given to the Historical Society with the first donation, but permission was given to microfilm many of the personal letters. Before the death of Alice Brill, the youngest daughter, in 1968, the original letters were given to the Historical Society and following their acquisition, the microfilm was discarded.

Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers

The first box in this collection contains undated material, much of which deals with the genealogy of both the Brill and Gray families. There are some old newspaper clippings of family vital statistics, mainly obituaries. There is an undated "Report of the Jewish Center School System" of New York made by Columbia University with Alice Brill as one of the investigators. There are also some short undated essays by Alice Brill, the undated master's thesis of Ethel Brill, and an unidentified reminiscence entitled "St. Paul Childhood."

Boxes 2-10, dated 1805 and 1849-1964, contain the interfiled papers of the following members of the Brill family:

- Kenneth G. Brill.
- Edith and Alice Brill.
- Ethel C. Brill.
- William H. Brill.

The papers of each family member are described separately in the paragraphs that follow.

Hascal R. Brill and Cora Brill Papers, 1805, 1849-1922.

1805 is the date of the oldest letter in the collection and is from John Finch, great-grandfather of Cora Brill, to his son.

1849-1895. These papers are of two main types: general correspondence, both personal and business, and legal papers. These latter consist in large part of abstracts of title to property in and around St. Paul and Ramsey County. There are also copies of mortgages and notices of tax
The personal correspondence consists of:

1. Letters from Hascal Brill to his parents while he was at Hamline University from 1862-1865 and the following year while a student at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The letters give data on school life and briefly mention the Civil War and other current events.

2. Letters from Hascal Brill to Miss Cassie Yates of Franklin, Vermont, 1868-1871, and to Miss Cora Gray of Suspension Bridge, New York, from 1871-1873. Many of these letters discuss briefly the question of women's rights. Cora's letters to Hascal are also included, as are letters to her mother, Abby Jane Gray after her marriage.

3. Letters home from Hascal while on a European trip in the summer of 1886, and others while attending judges' conferences at various times and places.

4. Letters to Cora Brill from relatives containing much family history to obtain facts needed for joining the D. A. R.

Business correspondence of this period deals with:

1. Real estate transactions and collections for Ira Bidwell, with whom Brill was associated and for whose estate he acted as executor in 1876 when Bidwell died.

2. A copy of the will of Joseph Colt, a great-uncle of Cora Brill and from whom her mother, Abby Jane (Colt) Gray, received a substantial inheritance, is dated April 22, 1879. Other members of the Colt family contested the will, occasioning much correspondence for Judge Brill, who acted as Abby Gray's attorney.

3. Correspondence in connection with Brill's work for the Methodist Episcopal Church.

4. In 1895 there are printed statements and letters concerning the liquidation of the Northwestern Endowment and Legacy Association of Red Wing. The Company's assets were transferred to the Union Life Insurance Company of Minneapolis.

5. Legal correspondence about judges' salaries and other questions concerning the courts.

6. A folder of newspaper reports of Judge Brill's judicial opinions and charges to the juries during some of the trials in the 1870s and 1880s.

1896-1922. The papers of these years again consist of personal letters and business and legal correspondence, similar in subject matter to those of previous years.

The personal letters are mainly family correspondence, among which are:
1. Letters to and from daughters Edith and Alice Brill while they were at school and college.
2. Letters from the two girls while they were on a summer vacation trip to Europe in 1913.
3. Letters on the 40th anniversary reception for Hascal Brill as judge.

*The business and legal correspondence of this period is largely routine and includes:*
1. Letters from the St. Paul Charter Commission, dealing mainly with the resignation of members, and from judge Brill on appointment of new members.
2. Letters from District Court judges of Duluth asking for 'visiting' judges to help with overload of work in the courts there in 1921.

*Items of special interest among Hascal R. Brill's personal papers include:*
1. A teacher's certificate issued by Goodhue County to Hascal R. Brill on November 2, 1861. He was fifteen years old.
2. L. S. from Oliver Wendell Holmes (Sr.), February 10, 1885.
3. 53 letters from Regina (Arthur) Caw, sister of President Chester Allen Arthur, dated 1867-1910. These are long letters discussing in detail literary, religious and political subjects as well as news of family and mutual friends. Letters after 1875 discuss her brother and his political activities and associates, and reveal the attitude of the sister toward her brother's activities. This is especially true of the ones written in 1880 when he received the vice-presidential nomination and in 1881 when he became President following the death of President Garfield. Mrs. Caw writes in detail of the inconvenience to her resulting from her new status as a sister of the President of the United States. This attitude is noted especially in a letter dated December 7, 1881.
4. A pamphlet on the grand opening of the Northern Pacific Railway, September, 1883.
5. Certificate of Hascal Brill's first appointment to the Court of Common Pleas in 1875, and certificates for re-election every sixth year thereafter.

Hascal Brill's correspondence ends with his death on March 1, 1922. There are many letters of sympathy to his family on file in Box 9.
Kenneth Gray Brill Papers, 1906-1951

1917-1918. Letters, mimeographed forms and other material pertaining to Kenneth Brill's activities during World War I, particularly his work with "Four Minute Men," with the American Red Cross, and with the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety.

1926-1951. The remainder of Kenneth Brill's papers deal with his activities in the Ramsey County Bar Association, the Minnesota State Bar Association, and the District Judges' Association. Included among his papers are constitutions of these organizations, form letters, and routine correspondence. The papers are heaviest for the year 1944 when Kenneth was president of the Minnesota State Bar Association. Other letters of interest for the period 1942-1945 include letters from St. Paul men in the armed forces during World War II; and information on the U.S. Office of Price Administration regulations and on alien registration and regulation.

Some items of particular interest among Kenneth Brill's papers include:

1. April 23, 1909. Two certificates, one from the U. S. District Court of Minnesota and one from the Circuit Court, admitting and qualifying Kenneth Brill as an Attorney and Counselor of the Court.

2. November 20 and 28, 1918. Citation and certificate from "Four Minute Men."

3. March 31, 1919. Certificate from the U. S. War Department, naming Kenneth Brill as a member of the Legal Advisory Board of St. Paul.


6. December 27, 1933. "A Few Reminiscences," a typewritten paper by George N. Hillman, who was a Ramsey County court reporter for a number of years.


Edith and Alice Brill Papers, 1895-1964

1895-1925. During this period the papers of Edith and Alice Brill consist mainly of personal correspondence, including:

1. Letters to and from members of their family while they were away at college, Edith at Smith in Northampton, Massachusetts, 1895-1898, and Alice at Columbia University, New York, 1920-1921 and again in 1924.

2. Letters from Edith and Alice to their family while they were on a vacation trip to Europe during the summer of 1913.

3. Letters to Alice from a friend, Paul C. Raymond of Buffalo, New York, while he was in the army during World War I, 1917-1918.

4. Letters from Hascal and Cora Brill when they were on a trip through the south in January and February, 1920, to Edith and Alice.

Business correspondence and papers consist of:

1. 1915-1917. Letters to Alice Brill from Winona State Normal School, Winona, Minnesota, regarding positions as a kindergarten teacher.


3. 1919. Letters to Alice from Columbia University, New York, pertaining to a scholarship for further study in her work as a kindergarten teacher.

4. 1921-1922. Letters to Alice from Winona State Normal School, Upsilanti, Michigan, offering positions in their departments for the training of kindergarten teachers.

5. In 1924 Columbia University wrote to Alice about a second scholarship (which she was granted) for "systematic work in leadership among parents for guidance of children."

1926-1964. Much of the correspondence is again personal:


2. 1940-1950. Letters to Edith Brill from relatives, with information on family history and records which she was collecting for the purpose of writing a family genealogy.

3. During 1945-1949 Alice received many letters from F. J. Swinkels of Holland, and in 1948-1949 from Paul Verdeil of France (in French). This correspondence grew from receipt of CARE packages sent by Alice. The correspondence of Swinkels continued over a longer period
because of his interest in what Alice had written to him about her father's family. The Brills and Sagers originally had come from Holland.

The business correspondence during this period consists of:

1. Letters to Alice Brill connected with her work in the Child Study Department of the Council Bluffs, Iowa, Public Schools, of which she was director.

2. 1927. Letters to Alice from the Iowa Child Welfare Research Station at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, where she was instructor during a summer term.

3. 1935-1945. Correspondence of Alice Brill with and for the United Charities of St. Paul. She was active on committees for both the Children's Department and the Family Service Department.

4. 1940-1950. Letters to Edith Brill from the New Jersey State Library, the New York State Library, and the U. S. War Department Bureau of Records, all pertaining to old family records.

5. 1941. Letters to Edith from Mrs. Judson B. Root, a professional genealogist.

6. 1948-1954. Letters to both Edith and Alice from Hamline University, where a Hascal Russell Brill Memorial fund had been established. They made many donations to the fund for the purchase of books.

7. 1948-1954. Several letters to both girls from Gordon K. Chalmers, President of Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio, thanking them for donations. The interest of Edith and Alice in Kenyon College came from the fact that their grandfather, Asahel Gray, had graduated from that college in 1848.

Items of special interest among the papers of Edith and Alice Brill include:

1. November 26, 1932. A card with the autograph of Herbert Hoover.

2. May 8, 1933. The original copy of the statement by the Official Board of the First Methodist Episcopal Church of St. Paul regarding its change of name from Market Street Methodist Episcopal Church.

Ethel Claire Brill Papers, 1919-1950

The correspondence and other papers of Ethel Brill deal with her work as a writer. There are letters from publishing companies such as the Century Company (1922), the MacRae Smith Company (1925-1931), Whittlesey House (1928), and the Junior Literary Guild (1946).

In 1921, there are letters from the Upper Peninsula Development Bureau of Michigan, the Michigan Historical Commission in Lansing, and the University of Michigan, in answer to inquiries for information on Isle Royale.

In 1923 the U.S. Forest Service answers letters on the subject of forestry, in which Ethel Brill was much interested in line with her writings on nature studies.

There are some copies of short stories and poems, all on natural history subjects, that appear in magazines for young people, including St. Nicholas Magazine (1922-1924), Everygirl's Magazine (1922), Our Young People (1923), and Youth's World (1924).

There are two items of particular interest in her papers:

1. 1924. A paper entitled "What and Where is Isle Royale?" written by Ethel Brill. It has been filed in Box 12.


William Hascal Brill Correspondence, 1903-1922

The small amount of correspondence of William H. Brill which is interfiled in the family papers is general in character. It is concerned with the following topics:

3. Letters from U.S. State Department officials on various aspects of U.S. Far Eastern policies, 1921-1922.

Items of particular interest include:

2. January 15, 1904, and November 27, 1905. Two passports for William Brill, one from the U.S. State Department and one from the U. S. Consular Service in Singapore.
3. April 1905. Letter from Martin Egan, a fellow war correspondent.
Other Papers

William Hascal Brill. Manuscripts and Dispatches, 1898-1922.

William H. Brill's manuscripts and dispatches cover the following assignments:

1. **1898.** The Leech Lake Indian Uprising. Two articles or dispatches (one incomplete; and Louis H. Roddis' notes on an interview with Brill in which Brill recounts his uprising experiences (Oct. 18, 1919, 17 leaves). Newspaper articles reporting this incident, which Brill covered for the Associated Press, are in Volume 28.

2. **July 5-November 7, 1903.** Alaska. On this assignment Brill was a reporter for a United States Senate Investigating Committee, which went to Alaska to negotiate with Canada over the boundary between Canada and Alaska. The dispatches discuss American settlers, Alaskan Indians, missions, cities, gold mining, the seal industry, and agitation to obtain territorial status for Alaska. There are also articles on the Bering Sea controversy, written by Brill for Newspaper Enterprise Association of Cleveland, Ohio.

3. **1904-1905.** The Russo-Japanese War. Many of these manuscripts are hand-written and seem to have been written while close to the scene of action during the war. Also included are copies of maps showing the location and movements of troops, as well as manuscripts of anecdotes and incidents that occurred during the war. When the collection was brought to the Historical Society, it included hundreds of newspaper clippings from the St. Paul Daily News, containing stories of the war as written by Brill. The clippings were discarded, since they can be found in the files of the St. Paul Daily News for the period February 1904-August 1905.

4. **1906-1908?** Asia. Includes articles on Burma, China, and Japan. The largest group deals with the political crisis in China which started with the Boxer War in 1900 and led to the establishment of the Chinese Republic in 1912. Most of these papers are undated but seem to have been written about 1906-1908.

5. **1917-1918.** World War I. Publicity releases written by Brill for the War Camp Recreation Fund, which was established by the U.S. War and Navy Departments.


The Brill photos consist principally of small photographic prints, ca. 5 inches by 7 inches in size, most of them related to Brill's service as a war correspondent in the Russo-Japanese War,
1904-1905, and to his other travels in Asia, ca. 1906-1908 [?]. The photos include views of officers and soldiers, battle scenes, scenery, and civilian men, women, and children.

The photos are filed in envelopes. Some have been removed from albums; these photos have been numbered by the cataloger to indicate their original order within the album. A number of typewritten lists of photos were found; all of these lists are filed with the photos. Further research will be needed to determine the extent to which the lists match the photos found in the albums. Many of the photos are unidentified.

See Box 11 for William H. Brill manuscripts and dispatches and Volumes 24-29 for his diary, notebooks, and scrapbooks.

**Edith and Alice Brill. Manuscripts and Articles, 1925-1951.**

The manuscripts and articles of Edith and Alice Brill are as follows:

1. **Undated.** A joint narrative of one of their European trips, entitled "Wish You Were Here."

2. **1926-1928.** Articles and a few form letters by Alice Brill while she was director of the Child Study Department of the Council Bluffs, Iowa, Public School System. Their subject matter is child study and parent education.


4. **1943.** An article by Alice on "The First Fifty Years of Family Service of St. Paul."

5. **1948.** A manuscript by Alice entitled "Are We a Little Mad," about antique collecting.

6. **1949-1951.** Three short articles by Alice: "Young People and Their Religious Beliefs," "How to Overcome Shyness," and "I Live in the City." The last article was read as a paper at a meeting of the Century Club on April 10, 1951.

7. **1951.** A manuscript by Edith Brill entitled "As I Remember." It is a short biography of her father and mother, Hascal and Cora Brill, as she remembered them. It also included Edith's reminiscences of her grandmother, Abby Jane Gray.

8. **1951.** A manuscript genealogy of the Brill family and the related Sager, Colt, Finch, Baldridge, Carswell, Gray, and Baker families, by Edith Brill. It is the end result of her work through the years 1940-1950, with some data taken from the information gathered earlier by her mother.
Hascal R. Brill. Speeches, 1862-1919

Most of these speeches were hand-written by Hascal Brill, who was asked to speak on many occasions for various groups. His speeches were on widely different subjects, to fit the group he was addressing or the occasion that called for the speech.

1. Undated. These speeches seem to be some of his earlier ones. Some of the subjects are historical, some literary, such as the Crusades, Alexander Hamilton, the Merchant of Venice.

2. 1862-1865. These speeches were written while Brill was at Hamline University and delivered before the Philological Society, of which he was a member.

3. 1868-1890. Speeches for this period include the dedication speech for the Odd Fellows Hall in 1877 and two Lyceum Lectures in 1880, one on Oliver Goldsmith and one on the Elizabethan Age.

4. 1894-1904. Two dinner speeches before the Ramsey County Bar Association, a memorial speech for Judge Kerr, three speeches at Hamline University affairs, and one on the opening of the Minneapolis Court House are all on local and more or less legal subjects. There are also during this period a few speeches given before the Informal Club on more varied subjects, such as Shylock, witchcraft, lawlessness.

5. 1915-1919. Speeches at a Bar Association dinner, an Odd Fellows anniversary dinner, a speech to Bishop Quale. The last speech filed was given on Memorial Day, 1919, at the Soldiers' Monument.

Volumes

The volumes described below belonged to members of the Brill family, as listed:

*Thomas R. Brill.* Account book, 1853-1873. This account book is the earliest volume in the collection. It is a day by day account of cash transactions for several years but was evidently discontinued before the book was filled. Following the accounts there is a diary for a short time and then some recipes. After these are miscellaneous entries--remedies for horses' ailments and how to judge a good ox.

*Hascal R. Brill.* Volume 2-13 consist of an account book, books of court judgements, and notes on legal 'readings'. There are five volumes of personal diaries covering the years 1862-1880.
Abby Jane Gray. These are two small hand-written recipe books.

Cora G. Brill. Personal diaries for the years 1870, 1871, and 1889-1902, and a scrapbook containing D.A.R. material, such as programs, conventions and social affairs.

Brill Family. Volume 18 is an interesting old scrapbook containing small fancy cards of various kinds. Some are Christmas, birthday, and Easter cards; some Sunday school cards; many are advertisements for national products. Among them are Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, Howe Sewing Machines, White Sewing Machines, New Home Sewing Machines, ONT sewing thread, Corticelli and Beldings silk threads, Garland Stoves and Ranges and Enoch Morgan's Sons Sapolio. There are also advertisement cards for local St. Paul Firms--Schlick and Co. Shoes; Myers and Finch, Jewelers; Boston One Price Clothing House; Howard Farwell and Co. Pianos; Chas. F. Pusch-Tailor and Draper.

Edith Brill. Four of these small volumes are class notebooks (volumes 19-22) and one volume is a personal diary for the year 1913 (volume 23). A sixth volume (not numbered and stored in Box 23) is a scrapbook, The Negro: progress in the recognition of the negro in the press, that Edith compiled between 1937-1953.

William H. Brill. There is a personal diary for the year 1905 and three small undated notebooks kept by Brill during the Russo-Japanese War which give more data on the war than is found in the diary. Two scrapbooks contain newspaper dispatches, one on the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905, and the other one on the Leech Lake Indian Uprising, the return of the 13th Minnesota Regiment from the Spanish-American War, Alaska, and miscellaneous articles on St. Paul newspapers.

Ethel Brill. A personal diary covering the years 1899-1960.

Alice Brill. There are nine 'Memory Books' covering her school years from 1905-1914, and three personal diaries, one of a summer vacation trip to Europe, 1913, one of the years 1919-1920, and
one of 1949-1955.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1. Correspondence and Miscellaneous Papers:
   Undated.

Box 2. 1805, 1849, 1852-1870.

Box 3. 1871-1875.

Box 4. 1876-1885.

Box 5. 1886 - September 1895.

Box 6. October 1895 - March 1897.

Box 7. April 1897 - 1907.

Box 8. 1908 - February 1919.

Box 9. March 1919 - 1942.

Box 10. 1943-1964.


Box 12. Ethel Brill. Manuscript, 1924.
   Edith and Alice Brill. Manuscripts and Articles, undated and 1925-1928.


Box 15. Volumes 1-16.


Box 17. Volumes 26-27, 31, 39-44.

Box 18. Volumes 18, 30, 32-38.

Box 19. William H. Brill. Photos, ca. 1904-1908:
   Unidentified. (2 folders)
   Russo-Japanese War. (one folder of lists of photos; 5 folders of prints).
Box 20. William H. Brill. Photos, ca. 1904-1908:
- Russo-Japanese War. (one folder containing 4 glass plate negatives).
- Manchuria. (7 folders)

Box 21. William H. Brill. Photos, ca. 1904-1908:
- China. (1 folder)
- India. (2 folders)
- Japan. (2 folders of loose photos and one folder containing a small album of hand-colored photos)
- Korea. (1 folder)

Box 22. Kenneth G. Brill Papers:
- Scrapbooks, 1892-1960. (10 volumes)
  These scrapbooks contain correspondence, newspaper clippings, photographs, and memorabilia of Brill, a lawyer and judge of St. Paul.
- Autobiography by Brill and Memorial address for Brill, written by Theodore Blegen.
- Resolution, 1954.
  Resolution by the St. Paul City Council, upon Brill's death, to fly the flag at half-mast for 30 days.

Box 23. Edith Brill Scrapbook:
  (11 folders)
- Contains pamphlets, newspaper and magazine clippings. Formerly cataloged in the Minnesota Historical Society library collection under call number E185.N39. The scrapbook was dismantled, some clippings were photocopied and the originals disposed, and the scrapbook was moved from the library collection to the Hascal R. Brill and family papers in 2017.
INVENTORY OF VOLUMES

Volume 3. Record of Court Judgements, 1861-1871.
Volume 4. Record of Court Judgements, 1876-1889.
Volume 40. Brill, Alice. Diary, European Trip, 1913.
Volume 43. Brill, Cora Gray. Diary, 1870.
Volume 44. Brill, Cora Gray. Diary, 1871.
Volume 45-54.  *Kenneth G. Brill Scrapbooks:*

Volume 45.  1892-1908.
Volume 46.  1910 - May 1919
Volume 47.  1920 - Nov. 1926.
Appendix 1

MATERIALS ABOUT CHINA IN THE
HASCAL R. BRILL PAPERS

There are in Hascal R. Brill's papers some materials about early 20th-century China and the
Russo-Japanese war, which was waged in China. These materials include photos taken and
dispatches and articles written by William Brill, Hascal R. Brill's nephew.

Researchers will be intrigued by some photos which reflect the rural life in Northeast China
(Manchuria) in the early 20th century and the images of some officials, wealthy families, poor
peasants, craftsmen and peddlers. Such photos are valuable considering the fact that cameras
were not widely used in China at that time. Brill's dispatches, reports, and articles concerning
Chinese politics and government, though not in large quantity, will give researchers an idea
through American eyes about what was going on in China in the early 20th century. That Brill
had met some very high-ranking Chinese officials, including Wn Ting-fang (Vice President of
the Board of Punishment) points up the importance of these materials.

Moving around in the battlefield as a reporter with the 2nd Corps of the Japanese Army,
Brill had witnessed many battles in the Russo-Japanese War. His reports about the war were
almost on a day-to-day basis. These reports are very useful to researchers who are interested in
the details of the Russo-Japanese War.

The Russo-Japanese War was triggered by Russia's seizure of Lui shuen (Port Arthur) and,
due to her weakness at the time, China became the battlefield on which a war to ravish her was
waged. Through some pictures and reports, people can see the difficult and awkward situation in
which China had found herself. These materials are helpful to researchers who want to get the
whole picture of China in the early 20th century.

Xingyang Wang
9 July 1984