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FOOLED JAPS—Ahmed Kamal and wife Amina show his mother, Mrs. Caroline Hathaway, novel in Turkish script. Bookmark clearance identifies it as Koran.

Prison 'Koran' Tricked Japs

Ahmed Kamal, in order to save the manuscripts of three books he wrote during Japanese imprisonment, relied on the inadequacy of Japanese as linguists. He had a hunch, and it worked, he said yesterday.

In 1941, the American-born Kamal, son of Mrs. Caroline Hathaway, 465 E. Lake St. was in the Orient seeking to retrieve some books and documents which he had stored in Turkistan on an earlier visit. War came, and with it imprisonment for the young author and his bride, a Tatar from Central Asia.

"Then we spent almost four years behind prison barbed-wires," said Mrs. Kamal, herself a linguist and a former correspondent for Russian papers. "We were shuttled about from camp to camp."

Koran Permitted

"In moving," Kamal recalled, taking up the story, "the prisoners were allowed to carry no books or papers except a Bible. Since we were not Christians but Moslems, I asked permission to carry a Koran."

The permission was granted. Then Kamal and his wife set to work, translating his English manuscript of a novel, a history and a political study into Turkish script. The completed work resembled a printed book in such detail that the Kamals were able to pass it off as such to unknowing Japanese guards. They even secured a permit slip from the Japanese (written in Chinese, however,) giving them clearance.

"Now the job before us is translating the three volumes back into English," Kamal said.

The Kamals were liberated from the camp at Weihsien soon after the Japanese surrender. They arrived in the States Monday, landing at San Francisco.