

## Harvey Kaplan in Glasgow:

The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre (SJAC) has created an activity for school classes using documents and photographs from the Dorrith M Sim Collection (deposited in SJAC). The pupils “meet” Dorrith and her family in Kassel. They find out about Kristallnacht and how her parents arrange for her to leave on a Kindertransport. We look at letters from Dorrith’s parents to Mr and Mrs Gallimore and consider their views on Dorrith and on religion and their gratitude to the Gallimores and read about her parents’ attempts to get visas to leave Germany.

We follow Dorrith’s life in Scotland as a young refugee, later marrying and having her own family and then writing her book *In my Pocket*, and the Aunt Aggie series of short stories.

We have made large size copies of about twenty items from the collection so that pupils can look at them close up, as we cannot allow them to handle the originals, which can be very small and might be damaged by a lot of handling. When we can, we show the pupils items of clothing and artifacts that Dorrith brought with her.

The guidance we obtained from educational specialists was to ensure we allowed the pupils to

find out about life before the Holocaust and how the individuals went on to make a life after the Holocaust and to contribute to society.

When we are doing the activity with pupils we talk a bit about refugees today and issues of antisemitism and racism and also the role of individuals in making moral decisions and how each and every one of us will have a role to play in shaping the world we live in today and for the future.

We have found by focusing on the experience of individual refugees who came to Scotland, it makes the Holocaust more accessible to young people.

We are always conscious that while Dorrith went on to have a successful life and family, she also lost her parents and she had to live with the impact of that all her life. Dorrith said her collection should stay in Scotland as Scotland had given her a home as a young refugee.