He is a genealogist and filmmaker, deals intensively with the history of Jewish culture and is currently traveling through Germany and Europe: Eli Rabinowitz. On Tuesday, the Australian visited Volkmarsen and looked at the mikveh with Ernst Klein.

Eli Rabinowitz has traveled through Europe several times, including following in the footsteps of his ancestors. Now he is back in the EU. He will be staying for more than a month, visiting several countries and attending a genealogy conference in London at the end of July. On his current trip, he will also be following in the footsteps of a young girl: Dorrith M. Sim. The Volkmarser local researcher Ernst Klein published her story "In meine Taschen" a few years ago. Dorrith, born in Kassel, had been sent away by her parents on a Kindertransport to save her from the Nazis. Dorrith M. Sim's children live in Scotland and will soon be visited by Australian Eli Rabinowitz.

The 71-year-old Rabinowitz has already made sure that the book with Dorrith's story becomes well known: he met the German ambassador to Australia at an event in his hometown of Perth. And he spontaneously agreed that the printing costs for 1000 copies in English would be covered. Many schoolchildren on the other side of the world have already read the story and learned what the Kindertransport was all about. They have also created artistic works inspired by the book. Rabinowitz brought some with him.

But for the Australian – who was himself born in Cape Town, South Africa – the book is not one about the Holocaust, he emphasizes. "It's a story about hope." He wants to connect "in the past" and "today" with it, "we learn from history, we can make the world a better place," he says. Today, this is also important with regard to refugees, whether from Ukraine or Syria.

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Now Klein and Rabinowitz have met in person for the first time. Also present was Beate Lehmann from the board of "Judaica in Meimbressen", who is also a research associate at the Salomon Ludwig Steinheim Institute, which belongs to the University of Duisburg-Essen. The three of them looked at the mikvah together and then at the Gustav-Hüneber-Haus.

Visitors will be out and about in the North Hesse region for a few more days. So he will be in Kassel on Thursday to meet with members of the Jewish community.

Julia Janzen