successful two-year struggle by Vitebsk Jews to have it returned. In 1922 Vitebsk held the first trial in Soviet Russia in which proceedings were conducted in Yiddish.

From 1918 to 1920 the Peretz Society was the city’s center for Jewish culture. In 1920 it published the art book Yidishe folks ornament by Iudovin and Mark Malkin. Many Jews were involved as instructors and students at the art institute founded by Chagall in 1918. In the following year a Jewish department was opened at the local museum. Between 1918 and 1923 newspapers appeared in Yiddish and a Yiddish theater operated from 1921 to 1923. Between 1925 and 1929 the regional studies society had a Jewish section; during ethnographic expeditions in 1925 and 1926, students of the Vitebsk art school made sketches of synagogues. A Jewish Teachers’ Seminary opened in 1921 and continued operating until July 1937. Yiddish schools established in the city after the revolution were closed in the summer of 1938, as was the Jewish division of the Vitebsk Pedagogical Institute, which had opened in 1932. An underground Lubavitch yeshiva operated in Vitebsk from 1926 to 1930. Four of the 48 active synagogues in the city were closed in 1929; by the end of 1936 only nine remained open. During the interwar period the Jewish population of Vitebsk remained fairly constant: 39,714 (44% of the total) in 1923 and 37,095 (22%) in 1939. A large part of the city’s Jewish population either managed to be evacuated or was mobilized into the army before Vitebsk was occupied by German troops on 9–11 July 1941. A ghetto was set up during the following two weeks and the murder of Jews began. During the liquidation of the ghetto on 8–10 October, 4,090 Jews were shot; in all about 8,000 perished.

In 1970 the Jewish population of Vitebsk was 17,343 (7% of the total); in 1989, 8,139 (2%); and in 1999, 2,883 (0.8%). In 1989 the Obshchestvo Liubitelei Evreiskoi Kul’tury (Society of Friends of Jewish Culture) was founded. The Marc Chagall Museum opened in 1992. The literary and publicistic annual Mishpokha began appearing in 1995. In 2001 there were four registered local Jewish organizations.

• Gregor Aronson, Jacob Lestschinsky, and Avraham Kihn, eds., Vitebsk amol (New York, 1956); Baruch Karu et al., eds., Vitebsk (Tel Aviv, 1956/57); Danil Romanovskii, “Skol’ko evreev pogiblo v promyshlennykh gorodakh vostochnoi Belorussii v nachale nemetskoi okupatsii (iul’–dekabr’ 1941)?” Vestnik evreiskogo universiteta 4.22 (2000): 151–172.

—Arkadi Zeltser
Translated from Russian by Yisrael Cohen

VIZHNITS HASIDIC DYNASTY. See Kosov-Vizhnits Hasidic Dynasty.

VODKA. See Food and Drink; Tavern-keeping.

VOGEL, DVORA (1900–1942), writer, art critic, and philosopher. Dvora Vogel was born in Burshtyn in Galicia into an intellectual family. During World War I, the family fled to Vienna. Upon their return, Vogel attended high school in Lwów and then studied philosophy and psychology at the universities of Lwów and Kraków. Her first literary efforts were in German, but subsequently Vogel switched to Yiddish, allegedly under the influence of her friend and fellow student Rokhl Oyerbakh (Rachel Auerbach).

After completing a dissertation on Hegel’s aesthetics at the Jagiellonian University of Kraków in 1926, Vogel went abroad to Stockholm, Berlin, and Paris. Thereafter, she taught psychology at the Hebrew Teachers’ Seminary in Lwów and published her first Yiddish-language poems. In 1932 she married the Lwów engineer Szulim Barenblüth, with whom she had a son, Anzelm (Antshel). Between 1929 and 1931, she copublished the Lwów literary journal Tsushteyer (Casztyer), in which she primarily championed the publication of pictures and drawings. Her article “Teme un forem in der kunst fun Shagal” (Themes and Forms in the Art of [Marc] Chagall; 1930) appeared in that journal. She also published a large number of essays on contemporary art and art theory in various journals, some of which have yet to be collected. Vogel was murdered, together with her husband, mother, and small son, in the Lwów ghetto in 1942, during the so-called Great Action.

Vogel maintained close contacts with...