

## TAKING STOCK OF CHAMETZ

*Adapted*

*from a shiur by Dayan Yosef Greenwald*

May one

own shares on Pesach in a public company that owns chametz?

At the

heart of this issue is the halachic view of corporations and stock ownership, and whether shareholders, who don't bear personal liability, are considered the

owners of corporate assets. These questions were first addressed by 19th century CE *poskim*—the Bais Yitzchok, the Rogatchover Gaon, the Mahari Halevi, and the Sho'el Umaishiv—in the context of banking. They considered such

questions as whether a depositor earning interest at a corporate-owned bank

with Jewish shareholders is considered a *malveh b'ribbis*.

Melamed

L'ho'il 1:91 discusses at length why corporate-owned chametz with Jewish shareholders isn't subject to *chametz she'avar alav haPesach*.

Mo'adim Uz'manim (Vol. 3 269), who completely rejects the notion that corporate

ownership is distinct from personal ownership, rules that shares of stock in chametz-owning corporations must be sold to a non-Jew along with one's

physical

chametz.