CENTRAL SECURITIES CORP
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February 05, 2003

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CENTRAL SECURITIES CORPORATION

SEVENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

2002

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

"There'll be about 3 million more Americans per year for a decade. We'll reach 310 million by 2010, up from about 288 million now. That's over 20 million more people to house, feed, clothe, transport, doctor, entertain, etc., this decade...good news for most businesses.

"From 2010 to 2030, the gain will be even higher: 3.6 million a year on average. In 30 years, the U.S. population will top 380 million. Even more dramatic, growth from now to 2050 will total about 170 million. That's more people than lived in the entire country 50 years ago.

"Ours is one of a few advanced nations with a growing population. Germany, Japan, Italy and others will have fewer people. Same for Russia and AIDS-ravaged Africa. Like the U.S., the U.K., France and Canada will see population increases that get a major boost from immigration." (The Kiplinger Letter, December 27, 2002)

"America's incarceration rate was roughly constant from 1925 to 1973, with an average of 110 people behind bars for every 100,000 residents. By 2000, however, the rate of incarceration in state and federal prisons had more than quadrupled, to 478. America has overtaken Russia as the world's most aggressive jailer. When local jails are included in the American tally, the United States locks up nearly 700 people per 100,000, compared with 102 for Canada, 132 for England and Wales, 85 for France and a paltry 48 in Japan. Roughly 2m Americans are currently behind bars, with some 4.5m on parole or on probation (the probationers are on suspended sentences). Another 3m Americans are ex-convicts who have served their sentences and are no longer under the control of the justice system." (The Economist, August 10, 2002)

"The United States cannot seem to decide whether to post `Do Not Trespass' or `Help Wanted' signs along its southern border. We criminalize entry without a permit, direct the Border Patrol to seal the frontier, then eagerly hire the migrants who are successful in running the gantlet...There are now an estimated eight million illegal immigrants in the United States." (Andres Martinez, The New York Times, October 14, 2002)

"Everybody is in on the act. The Financial Accounting Standards Board has, at last count, enshrined generally accepted accounting principles into three volumes comprising some 4,530 pages. Some of the FASB rules run to over 700 pages on how to book a single transaction. It should surprise no one that two skilled accountants, looking at the booking of the same transaction and using their knowledge of the same rules, come out with different results.

"It happens all the time in legal matters. Learned judges hearing the same testimony and reading the same briefs often render split opinions of 5-4 or 2-1. It is rare that they are castigated by the media or Congress for failing to agree unanimously, but in the accounting profession a difference of opinion is often reported as if a fraud has been committed.

"Congress, which suddenly has become expert on the nearly 5,000 pages of rules governing private-sector accounting, prevents our own government from using GAAP. The reason for this hypocrisy is clear. If GAAP were used by the federal government, the reported surplus last year of $170 billion would have to be reported as a deficit of $580 billion. Off-balance-sheet financing, a la Enron, is more the rule than the exception in government." (Walter Wriston, The Wall Street Journal, August 5, 2002)

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SIGNS OF THE TIMES

"The dollar's performance during this cyclical downturn provides evidence that the international financial system is operating on a de facto dollar standard. No asset since gold in the 19th century enjoys such broad acceptance as both a medium of exchange and a store of value as the dollar. ...Almost 50% of all U.S. Treasury bonds are held as reserves by foreign central banks and national governments that are reluctant to sell them for fear of undermining the competitiveness of their own currencies. As long as the U.S. inflation rate remains low, any run on the dollar by individuals is likely to be offset by foreign central banks accumulating dollars to prevent their own currencies from appreciating." (Laura D'Andrea Tyson, BusinessWeek, October 28, 2002)

"The Telecom Act of 1996 had encouraged the creation of hundreds of new phone companies, which incorrectly believed that the new legislation would guarantee them access to the copper lines in homes and businesses controlled by the regional Bell operating companies. When they failed to gain access, they were unable to generate adequate cash flow to service their debt. The telecom industry has a $100 billion investment in new fiberoptic systems with a utilization rate of only 2%. As a result of the inability of government to provide a "level playing field," the telecom investment boom of 1996 - 2000 was the greatest misallocation of capital in American history." (David Hale, Barron's, December 30, 2002)

"The struggle to understand developments in the economy and financial markets since the mid-1990s has been particularly challenging for monetary policymakers. We were confronted with forces that none of us had personally experienced. Aside from the then recent experience of Japan, only history books and musty archives gave us clues to the appropriate stance for policy. We at the Federal Reserve considered a number of issues related to asset bubbles-that is, surges in prices of assets to unsustainable levels. As events evolved, we recognized that, despite our suspicions, it was very difficult to definitively identify a bubble until after the fact-that is, when its bursting confirmed its existence.

"Moreover, it was far from obvious that bubbles, even if identified early, could be preempted short of the central bank inducing a substantial contraction in economic activity-the very outcome we would be seeking to avoid.

"Prolonged periods of expansion promote a greater rational willingness to take risks, a pattern very difficult to avert by a modest tightening of monetary policy. In fact, our experience over the past fifteen years suggests that monetary tightening that deflates stock prices without depressing economic activity has often been associated with subsequent increases in the level of stock prices.

"For example, stock prices rose following the completion of the more than 300 basis-point rise in the federal funds rate in the twelve months ending in February 1989. And during the year beginning in February 1994, the Federal Reserve raised the federal funds target 300 basis points. Stock prices initially flattened, but as soon as that round of tightening was completed, they resumed their marked upward advance. From mid-1999 through May 2000, the federal funds rate was raised 150 basis points. However, equity price increases were largely undeterred during that period despite what now, in retrospect, was the exhausted tail of a bull market.

"Such data suggest that nothing short of a sharp increase in short-term rates that engenders a significant economic retrenchment is sufficient to check a nascent bubble. The notion that a well-timed incremental tightening could have been calibrated to prevent the late 1990s bubble is almost surely an illusion." (Alan Greenspan, Jackson Hole, Wyoming, August 30, 2002)

CENTRAL SECURITIES CORPORATION

(Organized on October 1, 1929 as an investment company, registered as such with the Securities and Exchange Commission under the provisions of the Investment Company Act of 1940.)

TEN YEAR HISTORICAL DATA

			Per Share of Common Stock					
Year	Total net assets	Convertible Preference Stock(A)	Net asset value	Net investment income(B)	Divi-dends(C)	Distribu-tions(C)	Net realized investment gain	Un app of
1992	$165,599,864	$10,019,000	$14.33					$
1993	218,868,360	9,960,900	17.90	$.14	$.18	$1.42	$16,407,909	1
1994	226,639,144	9,687,575	17.60	.23	.22	1.39	16,339,601	1
1995	292,547,559	9,488,350	21.74	.31	.33	1.60	20,112,563	1
1996	356,685,785	9,102,050	25.64	.27	.28	1.37	18,154,136	2
1997	434,423,053	9,040,850	29.97	.24	.34	2.08	30,133,125	2
1998	476,463,575	8,986,125	31.43	.29	.29	1.65	22,908,091	3
1999	590,655,679	--	35.05	.26	.26	2.34	43,205,449	3
2000	596,289,086	--	32.94	.32	.32	4.03	65,921,671	3
2001	539,839,060	--	28.54	.18	.22	1.58*	13,662,612	3
2002	361,942,568	--	18.72	.14	.14	1.11	22,869,274	1

A- At liquidation preference.

B- Excluding gains or losses realized on sale of investments and the dividend requirement on the Convertible Preference Stock which was redeemed August 1, 1999.

C- Computed on the basis of the Corporation's status as a "regulated investment company" for Federal income tax purposes. Dividends are from undistributed net investment income. Distributions are from long-term investment gains.

* Includes a non-taxable return of capital of $.55.

The Common Stock is listed on the American Stock Exchange. On December 31, 2002 the market quotations were as follows:

Common Stock .... $16.35 high, $16.20 low and $16.28 last sale

To the Stockholders of
CENTRAL SECURITIES CORPORATION:

Financial statements for the year 2002, as reported upon by our independent auditors, and other pertinent information are submitted herewith.

Comparative net assets are as follows:

	December 31, 2002	December 31, 2001
Net assets	$361,942,568	$539,839,060
Net assets per share of Common Stock	18.72	28.54
Shares of Common Stock outstanding	19,337,284	18,914,599

Comparative operating results are as follows:

	Year 2002	Year 2001
Net investment income	$ 2,592,249	$ 3,335,304
Per share of Common Stock	.14*	.18*
Net realized gain on sale of investments	22,869,274	13,662,612
Decrease in net unrealized appreciation of investments	(185,386,156)	(58,375,994)
Decrease in net assets resulting from operations	(159,924,633)	(41,378,078)

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* Per-share data are based on the average number of Common shares outstanding during the year.

The Corporation made two distributions to holders of Common Stock in 2002, a cash dividend of $.10 per share paid on June 21 and an optional distribution of $1.15 per share in cash, or one share of Common Stock for each 14 shares held, paid on December 26. The Corporation has been advised that of the $1.25 paid in 2002, $.14 represents ordinary income and $1.11 represents long-term capital gains. For Federal income tax purposes, separate notices have been mailed to stockholders. With respect to state and local taxes, the status of distributions may vary. Stockholders should consult with their tax advisors on this matter.

In the optional distribution paid in December, the holders of 57% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock elected to receive stock, and 752,785 Common shares were issued.

During 2002 the Corporation repurchased 330,100 shares of its Common Stock on the American Stock Exchange at an average price per share of $20.68. The Corporation may from time to time purchase Common Stock in such amounts and at such prices as the Board of Directors may deem advisable in the best interests of stockholders. Purchases may be made on the American Stock Exchange or in transactions directly with stockholders.

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Central's investment results are shown below together with those of the leading market indexes:

To December 31, 2002	Central's Market Return	Dow Jones Industrials	Standard & Poor's 500
Quarter	4.8%	10.5%	8.4%
Year	-31.2%	-15.0%	-22.1%
Ten Years (annualized)	13.4%	12.1%	9.3%

The economic recovery which began in the fourth quarter of 2001 continued in 2002, sustained by consumer spending. Government tax cuts and the refinancing of home equity loans at low interest rates stimulated personal consumption. Stock market returns, on the other hand, were dismal. In recent years, stock markets have suffered one of their biggest falls in history. Last year Central experienced its most severe decline since the recession of the mid-1970's, over twenty-five years ago. Our results were adversely affected in large part by price declines in a number of our major investments in information technology and financial companies, including Flextronics, Intel, Convergys, Analog Devices, Capital One, Household International and Bank of New York.

The divergence between the overall economy and the stock market is related to the nature of the recession in 2001. It was not a typical consumer led recession. It was led by a slump in business investment which has not yet begun a sustained recovery, especially with respect to information technology. The average technology mutual fund declined by over 40% last year. While not pleasant, the price declines of 2002 are unfortunately part of long-term investing in technology companies. As opposed to the larger and more stable consumer segment, the capital spending area of the economy is subject to periodic bouts of over-expansion and over-valuation in the stock market, followed by under-valuation in many cases. With respect to technology investments, the current condition will ultimately reverse itself as innovation offers new opportunities for productivity gains. The timing and magnitude of a lasting upturn, however, are not predictable.

Central's investment portfolio turnover was just under 20%, somewhat more than has been the case in recent years but less than that of the average mutual fund. At year end, 32% of our holdings were classified as information technology investments compared with 39% at the end of 2001. The financial sector accounted for 25%, the same as last year. The comparable percentages for the Standard and Poor's 500 Index were 15% in information technology and 21% in financial companies. Central had 39 holdings at year end, up from 31 at the start of the year. The ten largest, shown on page eight, constituted 51% of assets. Short-term commercial paper amounted to 13.6% of assets. This percentage has been higher in the past two years than Central's norm, reflecting our caution in the face of high equity prices. It is not an indication that we are changing our policy of remaining generally fully invested.

We reduced the carrying value of our largest investment, Plymouth Rock, at year end by 13% to reflect the price at which the company has the opportunity to repurchase a substantial block of its own stock. We have been pleased with the improved operating performance at Plymouth Rock and believe that it is well positioned to take advantage of opportunities in its major markets.

Our investment approach continues to be based on the long-term view. We look for companies with good economic fundamentals and the capacity for growth. We are sensitive to valuation. It is important to be able to make investments at a reasonable if not a bargain price. We attempt to estimate the probable value of a company over a period of three to five years into the future. We think that many, if not most, investors have a shorter time horizon and that our ability to take a long-term view has been a great advantage to Central. Our best results have come from holding investments in companies that grow significantly over a number of years, not from active trading for short-term gains. Finally, we are especially interested in the integrity of management and the alignment of its interests with those of stockholders.

Our practice has been to keep about one half our assets in a small number of investments, with the remainder in a general market portfolio. We believe that the risk associated with this approach can be reduced through intimate knowledge of the companies in which we invest. Ideally we want to hold for extended periods of time investments in companies with high returns on capital, high margins and sustained growth. We recognize, however, that the period of significant growth for a particular company will not last indefinitely and that over time the composition of our assets will change as long-term investments are reduced or sold and the proceeds redeployed.

It is our goal to provide shareholders with investment management that will be judged as excellent over the long term. We are confident that under reasonably favorable economic conditions our investment approach will continue to provide satisfactory results.

Shareholder inquiries are welcome.

CENTRAL SECURITIES CORPORATION
WILMOT H. KIDD, President

375 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10152
January 29, 2003

TEN LARGEST INVESTMENTS

	December 31, 2002 Cost	Value	% of Net Assets	Year First Acquired
	(millions)			
The Plymouth Rock Company, Inc.	$ 2.2	$42.0	11.6%	1982
American Management Systems, Inc.	22.2	19.4	5.4	1984
Murphy Oil Corporation	5.3	18.0	5.0	1974
Intel Corporation	0.5	17.4	4.8	1986
Brady Corporation Class A	2.4	17.3	4.8	1984
Capital One Financial Corporation	2.5	14.9	4.1	1994
The Bank of New York Company, Inc.	4.4	14.4	4.0	1993
Analog Devices, Inc.	0.7	14.3	4.0	1987
SunGard Data Systems, Inc.	6.7	13.9	3.8	1999
Convergys Corporation	16.7	13.3	3.7	1998

PRINCIPAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

October 1 to December 31, 2002
(Common Stock unless specified otherwise)

	Number of Shares Purchased	Sold	Held December 31, 2002
Accenture Ltd.	10,000		280,000
American Management Systems, Inc.	120,000		1,620,000
ArvinMeritor, Inc.	220,000		520,000
AT&T Wireless Services, Inc.		130,000	200,000
The Bank of New York Company, Inc.	20,000		600,000
Brady Corporation Class A		40,400	520,000
Broadwing Inc.		100,000	1,000,000
Capital One Financial Corporation		10,000	500,000
Convergys Corporation	100,000		880,000
Duke Energy Corporation	100,000		100,000
EnCana Corporation	160,000		160,000
Household International, Inc.		200,000	200,000
Murphy Oil Corporation	210,000(a)	30,000	420,000
Schering-Plough Corporation	160,000		160,000
Solectron Corporation	100,000		800,000
The TriZetto Group, Inc.	165,300		430,000
Unisys Corporation		50,000	1,150,000

(a) Stock Split

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STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
December 31, 2002

ASSETS:
  Investments:
    General portfolio securities
      at market value (cost $189,652,547)
      (Note 1) $268,001,108
    Securities of affiliated companies
      (cost $3,462,486) (Notes 1, 5 and 6) 44,615,409

Short-term investments (cost $49,181,437) ..	49,181,437	$361,797,954
Cash, receivables and other assets:		
Cash	63,920	
Dividends receivable	233,200	
Office equipment, net	30,936	
Other assets	39,050	367,106
Total Assets	362,165,060	
LIABILITIES:		
Accrued expenses and reserves	222,492	
Total Liabilities		222,492
NET ASSETS		$361,942,568
NET ASSETS are represented by:		
Common Stock $1 par value: authorized 30,000,000 shares; issued 19,347,284 (Note 2)		$ 19,347,284
Surplus:		
Paid-in	$221,065,405	
Undistributed net gain on sale of investments	2,174,359	
Undistributed net investment income	24,386	223,264,150
Net unrealized appreciation of investments		119,501,484
Treasury stock, at cost (10,000 shares of Common Stock) (Note 2)		(170,350)
NET ASSETS		$361,942,568
NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE (19,337,284 shares outstanding)		$18.72

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31, 2002

INVESTMENT INCOME		
Income:		
Dividends	$ 3,623,342	
Interest	1,234,312	$ 4,857,654
Expenses:		
Administration and operations	654,429	
Investment research	617,251	
Rent and utilities	174,561	
Employees' retirement plans	124,602	
Franchise and miscellaneous taxes	114,264	
Directors' fees	97,500	
Listing, software and sundry fees	85,553	

Legal, auditing and tax fees	78,040	
Insurance	76,628	
Stationery, supplies, printing and postage	50,098	
Transfer agent and registrar fees and expenses	35,571	
Travel and telephone	27,317	
Custodian fees	26,387	
Publications and miscellaneous	103,204	2,265,405
Net investment income		2,592,249
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS		
Net realized gain from investment transactions	22,869,274	
Net decrease in unrealized appreciation of investments	(185,386,156)	
Net loss on investments		(162,516,882)
NET DECREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM OPERATIONS		($159,924,633)

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the years ended December 31, 2002 and 2001

	2002	2001
FROM OPERATIONS:		
Net investment income	$ 2,592,249	$ 3,335,304
Net realized gain on investments	22,869,274	13,662,612
Net decrease in unrealized appreciation of investments	(185,386,156)	(58,375,994)
Decrease in net assets resulting from operations	(159,924,633)	(41,378,078)
DIVIDENDS TO STOCKHOLDERS FROM:		
Net investment income	(2,571,208)	(3,956,197)
Net realized gain from investment transactions	(20,694,915)	(18,650,364)
Return of capital	--	(9,911,422)
Decrease in net assets from distributions	(23,266,123)	(32,517,983)
FROM CAPITAL SHARE TRANSACTIONS: (Note 2)		
Distribution to stockholders reinvested in Common Stock	12,119,838	18,466,903
Cost of shares of Common Stock		

repurchased	(6,825,574)	(1,020,868)
Increase in net assets from capital share transactions	5,294,264	17,446,035
Total decrease in net assets	(177,896,492)	(56,450,026)
NET ASSETS:		
Beginning of year	539,839,060	596,289,086
End of year (including undistributed net investment income of $24,386 and $0, respectively)	$361,942,568	$539,839,060

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

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STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS

December 31, 2002

PORTFOLIO SECURITIES 86.4%
STOCKS (COMMON UNLESS SPECIFIED OTHERWISE)

Prin. Amt. or Shares		Value
	Banking and Finance 10.3%	
600,000	The Bank of New York Company, Inc.	$14,376,000
500,000	Capital One Financial Corporation	14,860,000
100,000	FleetBoston Financial Corporation	2,430,000
200,000	Household International, Inc.	5,562,000
		37,228,000
	Business Services 1.1%	
100,000	Concord EFS, Inc.(a)	1,574,000
240,000	ProBusiness Services, Inc.(a)	2,400,000
		3,974,000
	Chemicals 4.2%	
1,372,400	PolyOne Corporation	5,379,808
300,000	Rohm and Haas Company	9,744,000
		15,123,808
	Computer Software & Services 18.8%	
280,000	Accenture Ltd.(a)	5,037,200
1,620,000	American Management Systems, Inc.(a)	19,423,800
880,000	Convergys Corporation(a)	13,332,000
200,000	Peerless Systems Corporation(a)	278,000
590,000	SunGard Data Systems Inc.(a)	13,900,400
430,000	The TriZetto Group, Inc.(a)	2,640,200
1,150,000	Unisys Corporation(a)	11,385,000

500,000	Wind River Systems, Inc.(a)	2,050,000
		68,046,600
	Electronics 13.4%	
600,000	Analog Devices, Inc.(a)	14,322,000
1,350,000	Flextronics International Ltd.(a)	11,056,500
1,120,000	Intel Corporation	17,438,400
330,000	Motorola, Inc.	2,854,500
800,000	Solectron Corporation(a)	2,840,000
		48,511,400
	Energy 9.6%	
100,000	Duke Energy Corporation	1,954,000
160,000	EnCana Corporation	4,976,000
220,000	Kerr-McGee Corporation	9,746,000
420,000	Murphy Oil Corporation	17,997,000
		34,673,000

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Prin. Amt. or Shares		Value
	Health Care 5.0%	
420,000	Impath Inc.(a)	$ 8,282,400
100,000	Merck & Co. Inc.	5,661,000
160,000	Schering-Plough Corporation	3,552,000
150,000	Vical Inc.(a)	520,500
		18,015,900
	Insurance 14.8%	
200,000	Arch Capital Group Ltd.(a)	6,234,000
50,000	Everest Re Group Ltd.	2,765,000
50,000	PartnerRe Ltd.	2,591,000
70,000	The Plymouth Rock Company, Inc. Class A(b)(c)	42,000,000
		53,590,000
	Manufacturing 7.2%	
520,000	ArvinMeritor, Inc.	8,668,400
520,000	Brady Corporation Class A	17,342,000
		26,010,400
	Telecommunications 1.3%	
200,000	AT&T Wireless Services, Inc.(a)	1,130,000
1,000,000	Broadwing Inc.(a)	3,520,000

		4,650,000
	Transportation 0.7%	
533,757	Transport Corporation of America, Inc. Class B(a)(b)	2,615,409
	Miscellaneous 0.0%	
	Grumman Hill Investments, L.P.(a)(c)	178,000
	Total Portfolio Securities (cost $193,115,033)	312,616,517

SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS 13.6%

Prin. Amt. or Shares		Value
	Commercial Paper 13.6%	
$ 2,645,000	American Express Credit Corp. 1.0089%-1.1502% due 1/3/03	$ 2,644,846
37,812,000	General Electric Capital Corp. 1.1411%-1.1913% due 1/3/03-1/29/03	37,789,568
8,750,000	Sears Roebuck Discount Corp. 1.7770% due 1/8/03	8,747,023
		49,181,437
	Total Short-Term Investments (cost $49,181,437)	49,181,437
	Total Investments (cost $242,296,470)(100.0%)	361,797,954
	Cash, receivables and other assets less liabilities (0.0%)	144,614
	Net Assets (100%)	$361,942,568

(a) Non-dividend paying.

(b) Affiliate as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940.

(c) Valued at estimated fair value.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Significant Accounting Policies--The Corporation is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as a non-diversified, closed-end management investment company. The following is a summary of the significant accounting policies consistently followed by the Corporation in the preparation of its financial statements. The policies are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Security Valuation--Securities are valued at the last sale price or, if unavailable, at the closing bid price. Corporate discount notes are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. Securities for which no ready market exists, including The Plymouth Rock Company, Inc. Class A Common Stock, are valued at estimated fair value by the Board of Directors.

Federal Income Taxes--It is the Corporation's policy to meet the requirements of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies and to distribute all of its taxable income to its stockholders. Therefore, no Federal income taxes have been accrued.

Use of Estimates--The preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. Actual results may differ from those estimates.

Other--Security transactions are accounted for on the date the securities are purchased or sold, and cost of securities sold is determined by specific identification. Dividend income and distributions to stockholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

2. Common Stock--The Corporation repurchased 330,100 shares of its Common Stock in 2002 at an average price of $20.68 per share representing an average discount from net asset value of 12.77%. It may from time to time purchase Common Stock in such amounts and at such prices as the Board of Directors may deem advisable in the best interests of the stockholders. Purchases will only be made at less than net asset value per share, thereby increasing the net asset value of shares held by the remaining stockholders. Shares so acquired may be held as treasury stock, available for optional stock distributions, or may be retired.

The Corporation made two distributions to holders of Common Stock in 2002, a cash dividend of $.10 per share paid on June 21 and an optional distribution of $1.15 per share in cash, or one share of Common Stock for each 14 shares held, paid on December 26. In the optional distribution, 583,796 shares of Common Stock held as treasury shares by the Corporation were distributed, and 168,989 Common shares were issued.

3. Investment Transactions--The aggregate cost of securities purchased and the aggregate proceeds of securities sold during the year ended December 31, 2002, excluding short-term investments, were $80,589,140 and $79,623,294, respectively. Purchases and sales of U.S. Government securities aggregated $21,845,171 and $21,940,774, respectively.

As of December 31, 2002, based on cost for Federal income tax purposes, the aggregate gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation for all securities were $154,341,912 and $34,840,428, respectively.

4. Operating Expenses--The aggregate remuneration paid during the year ended December 31, 2002 to officers and directors amounted to $1,196,500, of which $97,500 was paid as fees to directors who were not officers. Benefits to employees are provided through a profit sharing retirement plan. Contributions to the plan are made at the discretion of the Board of Directors, and each participant's benefits vest after three years. The amount contributed for the year ended December 31, 2002 was $109,752.

5. Affiliates--The Plymouth Rock Company, Inc., and Transport Corporation of America, Inc. are affiliates as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940. The Corporation received dividends of $328,300 from affiliates during the year ended December 31, 2002. Unrealized appreciation related to affiliates decreased by $2,280,255 for the year 2002 to $41,152,923.

6. Restricted Securities--The Corporation from time to time invests in securities the resale of which is restricted. On December 31, 2002 such investments had an aggregate value of $42,178,000, which was equal to 11.7% of the Corporation's net assets. Investments in restricted securities at December 31, 2002, including acquisition dates and cost, were:

Company	Shares	Security	Date Purchased	Cost
Grumman Hill Investments, L.P.		Limited Partnership Interest	9/11/85	$ 21,647
The Plymouth Rock Company, Inc.	70,000	Class A Common Stock	12/15/82	1,500,000
			6/9/84	699,986

The Corporation does not have the right to demand registration of the restricted securities. Unrealized appreciation related to restricted securities decreased by $2,197,419 for the year ended December, 31, 2002 to $39,956,367.

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FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

	2002	2001	2000	1999	199
Per Share Operating Performance:					
Net asset value, beginning of year	$ 28.54	$ 32.94	$ 35.05	$ 31.43	$ 29.
Net investment income*	.14	.18	.32	.30	.
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss) on securities	(8.71)	(2.78)	1.92	5.96	3.
Total from investment operations	(8.57)	(2.60)	2.24	6.26	3.
Less:					
Dividends from net investment income**					
To Preference Stockholders	--	--	--	.04	.
To Common Stockholders	.14	.22	.32	.26	.
Distributions from capital gains**					
To Common Stockholders	1.11	1.03	4.03	2.34	1.
Return of capital**					

To Common Stockholders	--	.55	--	--	
Total distributions	1.25	1.80	4.35	2.64	1.
Net asset value, end of year	$ 18.72	$ 28.54	$ 32.94	$ 35.05	$ 31.
Per share market value, end of year	$ 16.28	$ 25.31	$ 28.25	$ 27.25	$ 24.
Total return based on market(%)	(31.23)	(2.42)	17.75	22.96	(11.
Total return based on NAV(%)	(29.43)	(6.54)	7.02	31.79	13.
Ratios/Supplemental Data:					
Net assets, end of year(000)	$361,943	$539,839	$596,289	$590,656	$476,4
Ratio of expenses to average net assets for Common(%)	.50	.45	.38	.45	.
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets for Common(%)	.57	.60	.83	.89	1.
Portfolio turnover rate(%)	19.50	10.32	13.54	12.06	6.

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* Per-share data are based on the average number of Common Shares outstanding during the year.

** Computed on the basis of the Corporation's status as a "regulated investment company" for Federal income tax purposes.

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS OF
CENTRAL SECURITIES CORPORATION

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the statement of investments, of Central Securities Corporation as of December 31, 2002, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Corporation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements and financial highlights. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2002 by correspondence with the custodian. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements and financial highlights referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of

Central Securities Corporation as of December 31, 2002, and the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The information set forth for each of the years in the ten-year and two-year periods ended December 31, 2002 appearing in the tables on pages 4 and 5, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements from which it has been derived.

KPMG LLP

New York, NY
January 29, 2003

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Independent Directors	Age	Principal Occupations (last five years) and Position with the Corporation (if any)
DONALD G. CALDER Director since 1982	65	President, G.L. Ohrstrom & Co. Inc. (private investment firm); Director of Brown-Forman Corporation, Carlisle Companies Incorporated and Roper Industries, Inc. (manufacturing companies)
JAY R. INGLIS Director since 1973	68	Executive Vice President, National Marine Underwriters (insurance management company) since 2001; Executive Vice President, Holt Corporation (insurance holding company) prior thereto
DUDLEY D. JOHNSON Director since 1984	63	President, Young & Franklin Inc. (private manufacturing company)
C. CARTER WALKER, JR. Director since 1974	68	Private investor
Interested Director		
WILMOT H. KIDD Director since 1972	61	Investment and research--President, Central Securities Corporation
		---------------------
CHARLES N. EDGERTON	58	Vice President and Treasurer, Central Securities Corporation
MARLENE A. KRUMHOLZ	39	Secretary, Central Securities Corporation since 2001; Senior Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP prior thereto

The address of each Director and Officer is c/o Central Securities Corporation, 375 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10152.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Donald G. Calder
Jay R. Inglis
Dudley D. Johnson
Wilmot H. Kidd
C. Carter Walker, Jr.

OFFICERS

Wilmot H. Kidd, President
Charles N. Edgerton, Vice President and Treasurer
Marlene A. Krumholz, Secretary

OFFICE

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TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS

KPMG LLP
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