

HANCOCK JOHN PATRIOT SELECT DIVIDEND TRUST  
Form N-30D  
February 24, 2003

John Hancock

Patriot  
Select  
Dividend Trust

SEMI  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

12.31.02

[A 2" x 1" John Hancock (Signature)/John Hancock Funds logo in lower, center middle of page. A tag line below reads "JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS."]

[A photo of Maureen R. Ford, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, flush left next to first paragraph.]

WELCOME

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Dear Fellow Shareholders,

Investors were probably never happier to close out a year than they were in 2002, since it was the third consecutive year that the stock market declined -- something that hadn't occurred in 60 years. Driving the fall were fears of war, a weak economy, disappointing profits, rising oil prices and a string of corporate scandals. All market sectors and investment styles suffered. As a result, the broad Standard & Poor's 500 Index fell by 22.09% for the year, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 15.04% and the technology laden Nasdaq Composite Index lost 31.53%.

Despite a fourth-quarter rally, only 3.8% of U.S. stock mutual funds made money last year, and the average U.S. stock fund lost 22.42%, according to Lipper, Inc. Bond funds provided the only bright spot, producing mostly positive results, with the average long-term bond fund rising 7.9%. It was the third year in which bonds outperformed stocks

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and gained ground, confirming yet again the importance of having a portfolio well-diversified among stocks, bonds and cash.

In fact, the disparity between stock and bond results over the last three years means that many investors' portfolios may have shifted substantially in their mix between stocks and bonds. We recommend working with your investment professional to rebalance your assets according to your long-term goals.

After three down years, no one can predict when the bear market cycle will turn. Currently, uncertainties abound, as the good news seen in signs of improving economic and corporate data, and efforts by Washington to stimulate the economy, are offset by the possibility of war and other geopolitical risks.

While all these factors are beyond our control, investors can take charge of how they maneuver through the inevitable bull and bear market cycles. We've said it before, but it bears repeating: the key is to keep a long-term perspective and work with your investment professional to develop and maintain a properly diversified portfolio. We believe this offers the best protection in the tough times and the best means to reach your long-term goals.

Sincerely,

/S/ MAUREEN R. FORD

Maureen R. Ford,  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

YOUR FUND  
AT A GLANCE

The Fund seeks to provide high current income, consistent with modest growth of capital, by investing in a diversified portfolio of dividend-paying securities. The Fund will normally invest more than 65% of its total assets in securities of companies in the utilities industry.

Over the last six months

- \* Preferred stocks held up relatively well amid a common-stock bear market, anemic economy and corporate scandals.
- \* The Fund benefited from oil- and natural gas-related preferred holdings as prices of both commodities soared on concerns of war.
- \* Most utility common stocks stumbled, although the Fund's focus on

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basic transmission and distribution companies helped it avoid problems.

[Bar chart with heading "John Hancock Patriot Select Dividend Trust." Under the heading is a note that reads "Fund performance for the six months ended December 31, 2002." The chart is scaled in increments of 2% with -8% at the bottom and 0% at the top. The first bar represents the -7.17% total return for John Hancock Patriot Select Dividend Trust. A note below the chart reads "The total returns for the Fund is at net asset value with all distributions reinvested."]

### Top 10 issuers

4.7%	Energy East Corp.
4.7%	Puget Energy, Inc.
3.8%	NSTAR
3.5%	Citigroup
3.5%	TDS Capital
3.4%	CH Energy Group, Inc.
3.4%	El Paso Tennessee Pipeline Co., 8.25%, Ser A
3.3%	DTE Energy Co.
3.2%	Lehman Brothers
3.1%	TXU U.S. Holdings

As a percentage of net assets on December 31, 2002.

BY GREGORY K. PHELPS, FOR THE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM

John Hancock  
Patriot Select Dividend Trust

### MANAGERS' REPORT

Despite all the economic turmoil, a diminished lack of confidence in corporate America and a persistently weak stock market, preferred stocks -- which account for more than half of John Hancock Patriot Select Dividend Trust -- turned in reasonably good performances for the second half of 2002. Their relative success hinged primarily on falling interest rates amid a surprisingly weak economy. Preferred stocks pay dividends, just like bonds pay regular interest and, because of those dividends, their stock prices tend to rise when interest rates fall, just as bond prices do. Furthermore, preferreds offer yields that are often significantly higher than what companies pay on their bonds and common stock. Many preferred stocks continued to yield between 7% and 9%, outstripping by a fairly wide margin the yields paid by corporate and other bonds and the dividends paid by common stocks.

"Despite all the economic  
turmoil...preferred  
stocks...turned in  
reasonably good perfor-  
mances for the second  
half of 2002."

### UTILITY COMMON STOCKS SHORT CIRCUIT

Utility common stocks were bitter disappointments during most of 2002. Much of their poor performance stemmed from the pain of the investigation and collapse of energy-trading company Enron plus subsequent investigations of similar companies. Questions about corporate accounting practices, accountability and ethics at these rogue

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companies cast a pall over the entire utility common stock group. In the late summer, even the most "plain vanilla" utilities that transmit and distribute electricity came under pressure, as mutual fund managers sold their strongest utility performers in order to meet the swell of shareholder redemptions that resulted from a weak overall stock market environment. The year ended, however, on a more upbeat note when the onset of winter, coupled with rising oil and natural gas prices, set off a bit of a rebound in the utility common-stock sector in December.

[A photo of Greg Phelps flush right next to first paragraph.]

### FUND PERFORMANCE

For the six months ended December 31, 2002, John Hancock Patriot Select Dividend Trust returned -7.17% at net asset value. By comparison, the average income and preferred closed-end fund returned -4.84%, according to Lipper, Inc. Over the same six-month period, the broad Standard & Poor's 500 Index returned -10.30% and the Dow Jones Utility Average, which tracks the performance of 15 electric and natural gas utilities, returned -19.48%.

"Many preferred stocks continued to yield between 7% and 9%..."

### RISING ENERGY PRICES BOOST OIL/GAS

The run-up in oil prices -- which also helped pump up natural gas prices -- caused our holdings in companies involved in the production and distribution of oil and natural gas to be among our best performers in the period. Despite relatively anemic global demand for energy, oil and natural gas prices skyrocketed as the year wore on, due to growing concerns that the escalation of tensions in the Middle East and a possible U.S. attack on Iraq would disrupt oil supplies. Some standout holdings included Anadarko Petroleum, Apache and Devon Energy. Another preferred stock holding with decent returns was Energy East, which was helped by the fact that it yielded 8.25% -- a very attractive yield in a low interest-rate environment.

[Table at top left-hand side of page entitled "Top five industry groups1." The first listing is Utilities 67%, the second is Broker services 7%, the third Finance 7%, the fourth Oil & gas 6%, and the fifth Banks-United States 5%.]

But there were some notable disappointments among our preferred-stock holdings. El Paso Tennessee Pipeline Co. and its wholly owned subsidiary Coastal came under pressure when a judge ruled that the company had manipulated pipeline capacity during the 2001 California power crisis. We think the company will be exonerated in its appeal to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Our holdings in Sierra Pacific also came under pressure due to what we believe to be an unfair rate decision, which resulted in a substantial downgrade of the company's credit quality. Despite that development, we continue to hang onto the stock because the company has a very strong management team, and the demand for the electricity it provides is growing much faster than most of its counterparts across the country. In addition, our holdings in Acquila and Xcel Energy also were hurt in part because they were forced to sell assets under distressed market conditions in order to placate credit rating agencies.

[Pie chart in middle of page with heading "Portfolio diversification1" The chart is divided into three sections (from top to left): Preferred

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stock 69%, Common stock 29% and Short-term investments & other 2%.]

### BORING DOES BETTER

Our emphasis on utility companies that do rather mundane things like transmit and distribute electricity, mostly in regulated markets, helped us avoid the most put-upon electric trading companies such as Enron. Holdings such as NSTAR held up better than most in part due to the favorable regulatory environment in its service area. Investors also liked the company's reputation for paying reliable dividends. Other holdings that did better than the utility common stock group overall included companies such as DTE Energy, Key Span and Northeast Utilities. Their resilience was due to their lack of energy trading operations and their location in favorable regulatory environments that are enjoying strong and growing demand.

[Table at top of page entitled "SCORECARD." The header for the left column is "INVESTMENT" and the header for the right column is "RECENT PERFORMANCE...AND WHAT'S BEHIND THE NUMBERS." The first listing is Anadarko followed by an up arrow with the phrase "Oil prices spike amid fears of Iraq war." The second listing is Energy East followed by an up arrow with the phrase "Demand for high-yielding stocks boosts price." The third listing is El Paso followed by a down arrow with the phrase "Company's role in California power crisis questioned."]

### OUTLOOK

Our view is that continued lackluster economic growth will preclude the need for interest-rate hikes for the foreseeable future. Low interest rates should continue to prompt strong demand for preferred stocks. Another factor that is likely to ignite demand is President Bush's proposal -- revealed in early January 2003 -- to eliminate taxes on dividends. If that proposal passes, the demand for preferred stocks eligible for the Dividends Received Deduction (DRD) should increase. As for utility common stocks, we think that most of the trouble associated with the Enron scandal is behind them. In our view, utility common stocks are very attractive given their earnings growth prospects and their low prices. Even if the economy starts to grow faster, we don't think that preferred stocks and utility common stocks -- two sectors that historically have lagged in a strong economy -- will be left out in the cold.

"Low interest rates  
should continue to  
prompt strong demand  
for preferred stocks."

This commentary reflects the views of the portfolio management team through the end of the Fund's period discussed in this report. Of course, the team's views are subject to change as market and other conditions warrant.

1 As a percentage of the Fund's portfolio on December 31, 2002.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### FUND'S INVESTMENTS

Securities owned



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183,500 El Paso Tennessee Pipeline Co., 8.25%, Ser A  
 147,000 Energy East Capital Trust I, 8.25%  
 87,100 Energy Gulf States Capital 1, 8.75%, Ser A  
 25,000 Florida Power & Light Co., 6.75%, Ser U  
 50,000 Hawaiian Electric Industries Capital Trust I, 8.36%  
 13,500 Massachusetts Electric Co., 6.99%  
 50,000 Monongahela Power Co., 7.73%, Ser L  
 48,000 PSI Energy, Inc., 6.875%  
 26,375 Public Service Electric & Gas Co., 6.92%  
 205,140 Puget Sound Energy, Inc., 7.45%, Ser II  
 205,600 Sierra Pacific Power Co., 7.80%, Ser 1 (Class A)  
 55,000 South Carolina Electric & Gas Co., 6.52%  
 59,000 Southern Union Financing I, 9.48%  
 196,700 TDS Capital Trust I, 8.50%  
 70,500 TDS Capital Trust II, 8.04%  
 106,000 TXU US Holdings Co., \$1.875, Depository Shares, Ser A  
 16,000 TXU US Holdings Co., \$1.805  
 29,200 TXU US Holdings Co., \$7.98  
 10,500 Virginia Electric & Power Co., \$6.98  
 10,000 Virginia Electric & Power Co., \$7.05  
 6,500 Wisconsin Public Service Corp., 6.76%

COMMON STOCKS 45.84%  
 (Cost \$66,378,073)

Telecommunications 0.06%  
 196,800 Touch America Holdings, Inc.\*

Utilities 45.78%  
 158,000 Alliant Energy Corp.  
 190,000 Aquila, Inc.  
 139,800 CH Energy Group, Inc.  
 46,000 Dominion Resources, Inc.  
 99,000 DPL, Inc.  
 133,900 DTE Energy Co.  
 70,000 Duke Energy Corp.  
 232,000 Energy East Corp.  
 129,000 KeySpan Corp.  
 34,000 NiSource, Inc.  
 207,000 Northeast Utilities  
 91,000 NSTAR  
 93,092 OGE Energy Corp.  
 27,500 Peoples Energy Corp.  
 54,000 Progress Energy, Inc.  
 20,000 Progress Energy, Inc. (Contingent Value Obligation)  
 170,500 Puget Energy, Inc.  
 271,500 Sierra Pacific Resources  
 176,750 TECO Energy, Inc.  
 48,000 WPS Resources Corp.  
 169,000 Xcel Energy, Inc.

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE

INTEREST RATE PAR (000s OM

SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS 2.33%  
 (Cost \$2,825,914)

Commercial Paper 2.33%  
 Chevron USA, Inc., Due 01-02-03

1.10%

TOTAL INVESTMENTS 157.13%

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OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, NET (57.13%)

TOTAL NET ASSETS 100.00%

\* Non-income producing security

(R) These securities are exempt from registration under rule 144A of the Securities Act of 1933. Such securities may be resold, normally to qualified institutional buyers, in transactions exempt from registration. Rule 144A securities amounted to \$3,240,000 or 2.67% of net assets as of December 31, 2002.

Parenthetical disclosure of a foreign country in the security description represents country of a foreign issuer.

The percentage shown for each investment category is the total value of that category as a percentage of the net assets of the Fund.

See notes to financial statements.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

December 31, 2002  
(unaudited)

This Statement of Assets and Liabilities is the Fund's balance sheet. It shows the value of what the Fund owns, is due and owes. You'll also find the net asset value for each common share.

ASSETS

Investments at value (cost \$213,898,162)	\$191,015,220
Cash	550
Dividends receivable	843,052
Other assets	46,344
Total assets	191,905,166

LIABILITIES

Payable to affiliates	163,531
Other payables and accrued expenses	111,969
Total liabilities	275,500

Auction Market Preferred Shares (AMPS), at value, unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest authorized with no par value, 700 shares issued, liquidation preference of



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\$100,000 per share 70,063,294

### NET ASSETS

Common shares capital paid-in	142,073,200
Accumulated net realized loss on investments	(452,373)
Net unrealized depreciation of investments	(22,882,942)
Accumulated net investment income	2,828,487

Net assets applicable to common shares \$121,566,372

### NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE

Based on 9,920,759 shares of beneficial interest  
outstanding -- unlimited number of shares authorized  
with no par value \$12.25

See notes to  
financial statements.

### OPERATIONS

For the period ended  
December 31, 2002  
(unaudited) 1

This Statement  
of Operations  
summarizes the  
Fund's investment  
income earned  
and expenses  
incurred in  
operating the  
Fund. It also  
shows net gains  
(losses) for the  
period stated.

### INVESTMENT INCOME

Dividends	\$6,582,196
Interest	12,901

Total investment income 6,595,097

### EXPENSES

Investment management fee	783,723
Administration fee	146,948
AMPS auction fee	94,676
Auditing fee	27,415
Custodian fee	25,665
Printing	22,656
Miscellaneous	20,799
Transfer agent fee	19,905
Trustees' fee	5,728
Legal fee	1,406
Interest expense	118

Total expenses 1,149,039

Net investment income 5,446,058

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### REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS)

Net realized loss on investments	(189,351)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	(14,316,228)
Net realized and unrealized loss	(14,505,579)
Distributions to AMPS	(577,110)
Decrease in net assets from operations	(\$9,636,631)

1 Semiannual period from 7-1-02 through 12-31-02.

See notes to  
financial statements.

### CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

This Statement  
of Changes in  
Net Assets  
shows how the  
value of the  
Fund's net assets  
has changed  
since the end of  
the previous  
period. The dif-  
ference reflects  
earnings less  
expenses, any  
investment gains  
and losses,  
distributions  
paid to share-  
holders, if any,  
and any increase  
due to the sale of  
common shares.

	YEAR ENDED 6-30-02	PERIOD ENDED 12-31-02 1
<b>INCREASE IN NET ASSETS</b>		
From operations		
Net investment income	\$11,662,019	\$5,446,058
Net realized loss	(211,634)	(189,351)
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(15,801,539)	(14,316,228)
Distributions to AMPS	(1,449,527)	(577,110)
Decrease in net assets resulting from operations	(5,800,681)	(9,636,631)
Distributions to common shareholders		
From net investment income	(10,678,061)	(5,351,425)
From Fund share transactions	212,653	268,085

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### NET ASSETS APPLICABLE TO COMMON SHARES

Beginning of period	152,552,432	136,286,343
End of period 2	\$136,286,343	\$121,566,372

1 Semiannual period from 7-1-02 through 12-31-02. Unaudited.

2 Includes accumulated net investment income of \$3,310,964 and \$2,828,487, respectively.

See notes to financial statements.

### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

#### COMMON SHARES

The Financial Highlights show how the Fund's net asset value for a share has changed since the end of the previous period.

PERIOD ENDED	6-30-98	6-30-99	6-30-00	6-30-01
<b>PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE</b>				
Net asset value,				
beginning of period	\$15.60	\$17.07	\$16.00	\$13.97
Net investment income 2	1.38	1.26	1.27	1.33
Net realized and unrealized				
gain (loss) on investments	1.62	(0.80)	(1.91)	1.55
Dividends to AMPS shareholders	(0.29)	(0.29)	(0.31)	(0.33)
Total from investment operations	2.71	0.17	(0.95)	2.55
Less distributions to				
common shareholders				
From net investment income	(1.24)	(1.13)	(1.08)	(1.00)
Distributions in excess of net				
investment income	--	(0.11)	--	--
	(1.24)	(1.24)	(1.08)	(1.00)
Net asset value, end of period	\$17.07	\$16.00	\$13.97	\$15.47
Per share market				
value, end of period	\$15.50	\$13.81	\$12.38	\$14.87
Total return at market value 3 (%)	17.26	(3.56)	(2.46)	29.47
<b>RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA</b>				
Net assets applicable to common shares,				
end of period (in millions)	\$169	\$159	\$138	\$155
Ratio of expenses to average				
net assets 6 (%)	1.68	1.72	1.74	1.77
Ratio of net investment income				
to average net assets 7 (%)	8.38	7.51	8.57	8.27
Portfolio turnover (%)	41	30	20	19
<b>SENIOR SECURITIES</b>				
Total AMPS outstanding				
(in millions)	\$70	\$70	\$70	\$70
Involuntary liquidation				
preference per unit (in thousands)	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Approximate market value per unit				
(in thousands)	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100

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Asset coverage per unit	8	\$338,876	\$329,508	\$299,106	\$316,08
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1 Semiannual period from 7-1-02 through 12-31-02. Unaudited.

2 Based on the average of the shares outstanding.

3 Assumes dividend reinvestment.

4 Not annualized.

5 Annualized.

6 Ratios calculated on the basis of expenses applicable to the common shares relative to the average net assets of common shares. Without the exclusion of preferred shares, the ratio of expenses would have been 1.18%, 1.21%, 1.18%, 1.21%, 1.20%, and 1.17%, respectively.

7 Ratios calculated on the basis of net investment income applicable to common shares relative to the average net assets of common shares. Without the exclusion of preferred shares, the ratio of net investment income would have been 5.86%, 5.28%, 5.79%, 5.61%, 5.40%, and 5.56%, respectively.

8 Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities from the Fund's total assets and dividing such amount by the number of AMPS outstanding as of the applicable 1940 Act Evaluation Date.

See notes to financial statements.

### NOTES TO STATEMENTS

Unaudited

#### NOTE A Accounting policies

John Hancock Patriot Select Dividend Trust (the "Fund") is a diversified closed-end investment management company registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940.

Significant accounting policies of the Fund are as follows:

#### Valuation of investments

Securities in the Fund's portfolio are valued on the basis of market quotations, valuations provided by independent pricing services or at fair value as determined in good faith in accordance with procedures approved by the Trustees. Short-term debt investments maturing within 60 days are valued at amortized cost, which approximates market value. The Fund determines the net asset value of the common shares each business day.

#### Investment transactions

Investment transactions are recorded as of the date of purchase, sale or maturity. Net realized gains and losses on sales of investments are determined on the identified cost basis.

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### Federal income taxes

The Fund qualifies as a "regulated investment company" by complying with the applicable provisions of the Internal Revenue Code and will not be subject to federal income tax on taxable income that is distributed to shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required. For federal income tax purposes, the Fund has \$118,315 of a capital loss carryforward available, to the extent provided by regulations, to offset future net realized capital gains. To the extent that such carryforward is used by the Fund, no capital gain distributions will be made. The entire amount of the loss carryforward expires June 30, 2010.

### Dividends, interest and distributions

Dividend income on investment securities is recorded on the ex-dividend date or, in the case of some foreign securities, on the date thereafter when the Fund identifies the dividend. Interest income on investment securities is recorded on the accrual basis. Foreign income may be subject to foreign withholding taxes, which are accrued as applicable.

The Fund records distributions to shareholders from net investment income and net realized gains on the ex-dividend date. Such distributions on a tax basis, are determined in conformity with income tax regulations, which may differ from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Distributions in excess of tax basis earnings and profits, if any, are reported in the Fund's financial statements as a return of capital.

### Auction Market Preferred Shares Series A

The Fund issued 700 shares of Auction Market Preferred Shares Series A ("AMPS") on August 30, 1990 in a public offering. The underwriting discount was recorded as a reduction of the capital of common shares.

Dividends on the AMPS, which accrue daily, are cumulative at a rate that was established at the offering of the AMPS and has been reset every 49 days thereafter by an auction. Dividend rates on AMPS ranged from 1.54% to 1.65% during the period ended December 31, 2002. Accrued dividends on AMPS are included in the value of AMPS on the Fund's statement of assets and liabilities.

The AMPS are redeemable at the option of the Fund, at a redemption price equal to \$100,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends on any dividend payment date. The AMPS are also subject to mandatory redemption at a redemption price equal to \$100,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if the Fund is in default on its asset coverage requirements with respect to the AMPS as defined in the Fund's by-laws. If the dividends on the AMPS shall remain unpaid in an amount equal to two full years' dividends, the holders of the AMPS, as a class, have the right to elect a majority of the Board of Trustees. In general, the holders of the AMPS and the common shareholders have equal voting rights of one vote per share, except that the holders of the AMPS, as a class, vote to elect two members of the Board of Trustees, and separate class votes are required on certain matters that affect the respective interests of the AMPS and common shares. The AMPS have a liquidation preference of \$100,000 per class, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends. The Fund is required to maintain certain asset coverage with respect to the AMPS, as defined in the Fund's by-laws.

### Use of estimates

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The preparation of these financial statements, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, incorporates estimates made by management in determining the reported amount of assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses of the Fund. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

### NOTE B

Management fee and transactions with affiliates and others

The Fund has an investment management contract with John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser"), a wholly owned subsidiary of The Berkeley Financial Group, LLC. Under the investment management contract, the Fund pays a monthly management fee to the Adviser at an annual rate of 0.80% of the Fund's average weekly net assets plus the value attributable to the AMPS.

The Fund has an administrative agreement with the Adviser under which the Adviser oversees the custodial, auditing, valuation, accounting, legal, stock transfer and dividend disbursing services and maintains Fund communications with shareholders. The Fund pays the Adviser a monthly administration fee at an annual rate of approximately 0.15% of the Fund's average weekly net assets plus the value attributable to the AMPS.

Ms. Maureen R. Ford and Mr. John M. DeCiccio are directors and/or officers of the Adviser and/or its affiliates, as well as Trustees of the Fund. The compensation of unaffiliated Trustees is borne by the Fund. The unaffiliated Trustees may elect to defer for tax purposes their receipt of this compensation under the John Hancock Group of Funds Deferred Compensation Plan. The Fund makes investments into other John Hancock funds, as applicable, to cover its liability for the deferred compensation. Investments to cover the Fund's deferred compensation liability are recorded on the Fund's books as an other asset. The deferred compensation liability and the related other asset are always equal and are marked to market on a periodic basis to reflect any income earned by the investment as well as any unrealized gains or losses. The Deferred Compensation Plan investments had no impact on the operations of the Fund.

### NOTE C

Fund common share transactions

This listing illustrates the number of Fund's common shares reinvested, reclassification of the Fund's capital accounts and the number of common shares outstanding at the beginning and end of the last two periods, along with the corresponding dollar value.

	YEAR ENDED 6-30-02		PERIOD ENDED 12-31-02 1	
	SHARES	AMOUNT	SHARES	AMOUNT
Beginning of period	9,885,027	\$141,701,513	9,899,636	\$141,805,115
Distributions reinvested	14,609	212,653	21,123	268,085
Reclassification of capital accounts	--	(109,051)	--	--
End of period	9,899,636	\$141,805,115	9,920,759	\$142,073,200

1 Semiannual period from 7-1-02 through 12-31-02. Unaudited.

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### NOTE D

#### Investment transactions

Purchases and proceeds from sales of securities, other than short-term securities and obligations of the U.S. government, during the period ended December 31, 2002, aggregated \$2,224,730 and \$2,461,919, respectively.

The cost of investments owned on December 31, 2002, including short-term investments, for federal income tax purposes was \$213,926,048. Gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments aggregated \$8,031,572 and \$30,942,400, respectively, resulting in net unrealized depreciation of \$22,910,828. The difference between book basis and tax basis net unrealized depreciation of investments is attributable primarily to the tax deferral of losses on wash sales.

#### INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND POLICY

The Fund's investment objective is to provide a high current income, consistent with modest growth of capital. The Fund seeks to achieve its investment objective by investing in preferred stocks that, in the opinion of the Adviser, may be undervalued relative to similar securities in the marketplace.

The Fund's non-fundamental investment policy, with respect to the quality of ratings of its portfolio investments, was changed by a vote of the Fund's Trustees on September 13, 1994. The new policy, which became effective October 15, 1994, stipulates that preferred stocks and debt obligations in which the Fund will invest will be rated investment grade (at least "BBB" by S&P or "Baa" by Moody's) at the time of investment or will be preferred stocks of issuers of investment grade senior debt, some of which may have speculative characteristics, or, if not rated, will be of comparable quality as determined by the Adviser. The Fund will invest in common stocks of issuers whose senior debt is rated investment grade or, in the case of issuers that have no rated senior debt outstanding, whose senior debt is considered by the Adviser to be of comparable quality.

On November 20, 2001, the Fund's Trustees approved the following investment policy investment restriction change, effective December 15, 2001. Under normal circumstances, the Fund will invest at least 80% of its assets in dividend-paying securities. The "Assets" are defined as net assets including the liquidation preference amount of the AMPS plus borrowings for investment purposes. The Fund will notify shareholders at least 60 days prior to any change in this 80% investment policy.

In November 2002, the Board of Trustees adopted several amendments to the Fund's by-laws, including provisions relating to the calling of a special meeting and requiring advance notice of shareholder proposals or nominees for Trustee. The advance notice provisions in the by-laws require shareholders to notify the Fund in writing of any proposal which they intend to present at an annual meeting of shareholders, including any nominations for Trustee, between 90 and 120 days prior to the first anniversary of the mailing date of the notice from the prior year's annual meeting of shareholders. The notification must be in the form prescribed by the by-laws. The advance notice provisions provide the Fund and its Trustees with the opportunity to thoughtfully consider and address the matters proposed before the Fund prepares and mails its proxy statement to shareholders. Other amendments set forth the procedures,

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which must be followed in order for a shareholder to call a special meeting of shareholders. Please contact the Secretary of the Fund for additional information about the advance notice requirements or the other amendments to the by-laws.

### DIVIDEND REINVESTMENT PLAN

The Fund offers its shareholders a Dividend Reinvestment Plan (the "Plan"), which offers the opportunity to earn compounded yields. Each holder of common shares will automatically have all distributions of dividends and capital gains reinvested by Mellon Investor Services, as Plan Agent for the common shareholders (the "Plan Agent"), unless an election is made to receive cash. Holders of common shares who elect not to participate in the Plan will receive all distributions in cash, paid by check mailed directly to the shareholder of record (or if the common shares are held in street or other nominee name, then to the nominee) by the Plan Agent, as dividend disbursing agent. Shareholders whose shares are held in the name of a broker or a nominee should contact the broker or nominee to determine whether and how they may participate in the Plan.

If the Fund declares a dividend payable either in common shares or in cash, non-participants will receive cash and participants in the Plan will receive the equivalent in common shares. If the market price of the common shares on the payment date of the dividend is equal to or exceeds their net asset value as determined on the payment date, participants will be issued common shares (out of authorized but unissued shares) at a value equal to the higher of net asset value or 95% of the market price. If the net asset value exceeds the market price of the common shares at such time, or if the Board of Trustees declares a dividend payable only in cash, the Plan Agent will, as agent for Plan participants, buy shares in the open market, on the New York Stock Exchange or elsewhere, for the participant's accounts. Such purchases will be made promptly after the payable date for such dividend and, in any event, prior to the next ex-dividend date after such date, except where necessary to comply with federal securities laws. If, before the Plan Agent has completed its purchases, the market price exceeds the net asset value of the common shares, the average per share purchase price paid by the Plan Agent may exceed the net asset value of the common shares, resulting in the acquisition of fewer shares than if the dividend had been paid in shares issued by the Fund.

Each participant will pay a pro rata share of brokerage commissions incurred with respect to the Plan Agent's open market purchases in connection with the reinvestment of dividends and distributions. The cost per share of the shares purchased for each participant's account will be the average cost, including brokerage commissions, of any shares purchased on the open market plus the cost of any shares issued by the Fund. There will be no brokerage charges with respect to common shares issued directly by the Fund. There are no other charges to participants for reinvesting dividends or capital gain distributions, except for certain brokerage commissions, as described above.

Participants in the Plan may withdraw from the Plan at any time by contacting the Plan Agent by telephone, in writing or by visiting the Plan Agent's Web site at [www.melloninvestor.com](http://www.melloninvestor.com). Such withdrawal will be effective immediately if received not less than ten days prior to a dividend record date; otherwise, it will be effective for all subsequent dividend record dates. When a participant withdraws from the Plan or upon termination of the Plan, as provided below, certificates for whole common shares credited to his or her account under the Plan will be issued and a cash payment will be made for any fraction of a share



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credited to such account.

The Plan Agent maintains each shareholder's account in the Plan and furnishes monthly written confirmations of all transactions in the accounts, including information needed by the shareholders for personal and tax records. The Plan Agent will hold common shares in the account of each Plan participant in non-certificated form in the name of the participant. Proxy material relating to the shareholders' meetings of the Fund will include those shares purchased as well as shares held pursuant to the Plan.

The reinvestment of dividends and distributions will not relieve participants of any federal income tax that may be payable or required to be withheld on such dividends or distributions. Participants under the Plan will receive tax information annually. The amount of dividend to be reported on 1099-DIV should be (1) in the case of shares issued by the Fund, the fair market value of such shares on the dividend payment date and (2) in the case of shares purchased by the Plan Agent in the open market, the amount of cash used by the Plan Agent to purchase shares in the open market, including the amount of cash allocated to brokerage commissions paid on such purchases.

Experience under the Plan may indicate that changes are desirable. Accordingly, the Fund reserves the right to amend or terminate the Plan as applied to any dividend or distribution paid subsequent to written notice of the change sent to all shareholders of the Fund at least 90 days before the record date for the dividend or distribution. The Plan may be amended or terminated by the Plan Agent after at least 90 days' written notice to all shareholders of the Fund. All correspondence or additional information concerning the Plan should be directed to the Plan Agent, Mellon Bank, N.A., c/o Mellon Investor Services, P.O. Box 3338, South Hackensack, NJ 07606-1938 (telephone 1-800-852-0218).

### SHAREHOLDER COMMUNICATION AND ASSISTANCE

If you have any questions concerning the Fund, we will be pleased to assist you. If you hold shares in your own name and not with a brokerage firm, please address all notices, correspondence, questions or other communications regarding the Fund to the transfer agent at:

Mellon Investor Services  
85 Challenger Road  
Overpeck Centre  
Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660  
Telephone 1-800-852-0218

If your shares are held with a brokerage firm, you should contact that firm, bank or other nominee for assistance.

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FOR YOUR  
INFORMATION

TRUSTEES

James F. Carlin\*  
William H. Cunningham  
John M. DeCiccio  
Ronald R. Dion  
Maureen R. Ford  
Charles L. Ladner  
Patti McGill Peterson  
Dr. John A. Moore  
Steven R. Pruchansky\*  
Lt. Gen. Norman H. Smith, USMC (Ret.)  
John P. Toolan\*

\*Members of the Audit Committee

OFFICERS

Maureen R. Ford  
Chairman, President  
and Chief Executive Officer

William L. Braman  
Executive Vice President  
and Chief Investment Officer

Richard A. Brown  
Senior Vice President  
and Chief Financial Officer

Susan S. Newton  
Senior Vice President and Secretary

William H. King  
Vice President and Treasurer

Thomas H. Connors  
Vice President and Compliance Officer

INVESTMENT ADVISER

John Hancock Advisers, LLC  
101 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts 02199-7603

CUSTODIAN

The Bank of New York  
One Wall Street  
New York, New York 10286

TRANSFER AGENT FOR COMMON SHAREHOLDERS

Mellon Investor Services  
85 Challenger Road  
Overpeck Centre  
Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660

TRANSFER AGENT FOR AMPS

Bankers Trust Company  
4 Albany Street  
New York, New York 10005

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LEGAL COUNSEL  
Hale and Dorr LLP  
60 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109-1803

STOCK SYMBOL  
Listed New York Stock Exchange:  
DIV

For shareholder assistance  
refer to page 18

HOW TO  
CONTACT US

On the Internet	<a href="http://www.jhfunds.com">www.jhfunds.com</a>
By regular mail	Mellon Investor Services 85 Challenger Road Overpeck Centre Ridgefield Park, New Jersey 07660
Customer service representatives	1-800-852-0218
Portfolio commentary	1-800-344-7059
24-hour automated information	1-800-843-0090
TDD Line	1-800-231-5469

[A 1 1/2" x 1/2" John Hancock (Signature) logo in upper left hand corner.  
A tag line below reads "JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS."]

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1-800-843-0090  
1-800-231-5469 (TDD)

[www.jhfunds.com](http://www.jhfunds.com)

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