## CENTRAL SECURITIES CORPORATION

**EIGHTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT** 

2014

#### SIGNS OF THE TIMES

"The University of Michigan on Tuesday introduced its new coach, Jim Harbaugh, who left the N.F.L.'s San Francisco 49ers to join the Wolverines. His base salary - \$5 million annually for seven years with 10 percent increases after three and five years – will eventually amount to more than what he was earning in the N.F.L. ...

"Harbaugh, like most college football coaches, will receive bonuses. His incentives come for reaching the Big Ten championship game (\$125,000), winning the Big Ten Championship (\$250,000), reaching a College Football Playoff bowl (\$200,000), playing in the four-team national championship playoff (\$300,000) and for team academic performance (up to \$150,000). Winning a national title would bring him \$500,000.

"The story of college football's gold rush can be told through television contracts. Under the championship playoff format that began this season, ESPN is paying \$7.3 billion over 12 years to telecast seven games a year – four major bowl games, two semifinal bowl games and the national championship game." (Marc Tracy and Tim Rohan, *The New York Times*, December 30, 2014)

"Few things are better at conveying what a nation really cares [about] than how it spends its money. On that measure, Americans like to punish.

"The United States spent about \$80 billion on its system of jails and prisons in 2010 – about \$260 for every resident of the nation. By contrast, its budget for food stamps was \$227 a person.

"In 2012, 2.2 million Americans were in jail or prison, a larger share of the population than in any other country; and that is about five times the average for fellow industrialized nations in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development." (Eduardo Porter, *The New York Times*, April 30, 2014)

"A tax inversion occurs when an American company merges with a foreign one and, in the process, reincorporates abroad. Such mergers have many motives, but often one of them is to take advantage of the more favorable tax treatment offered by some other nations. ...

"Perhaps the boldest and best response to corporate inversions is to completely rethink the basis of corporate taxation. The first step is to acknowledge that corporations are more like tax collectors than taxpayers. The burden of the corporate tax is ultimately borne by people – some combination of the companies' employees, customers and shareholders." (N. Gregory Mankiw, *The New York Times*, August 23, 2014)

"There is little doubt that the nation's road and transit systems could use more help. The American Society of Civil Engineers gave them a nearly failing grade of D in 2013; the state of bridges is somewhat better, earning a C-plus. The country's inadequate road and transit systems cost it billions through increased delays, extra fuel costs and auto repair bills. Poor road conditions are also said to play a significant factor in about one-third of all traffic fatalities, or about 10,000 deaths a year." (The Editorial Board, *The New York Times*, January 11, 2015)

## 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)

#### 25-YEAR HISTORICAL DATA

Per Share of Common Stock

				or common stoon		
		Net		of dividends istributions	Total dividends	Unrealized appreciation
Year Ended December 31,	Total net assets	asset value	Ordinary income*	Long-term capital gains*	and distributions	of investments at end of year
1989	\$129,376,703	\$12.24				\$38,661,339
1990	111,152,013	10.00	\$ .20	\$ .50**	\$ .70**	25,940,819
1991	131,639,511	11.87	.14	.56**	.70**	43,465,583
1992	165,599,864	14.33	.20	.66	.86	70,586,429
1993	218,868,360	17.90	.18	1.42	1.60	111,304,454
1994	226,639,144	17.60	.22	1.39	1.61	109,278,788
1995	292,547,559	21.74	.33	1.60	1.93	162,016,798
1996	356,685,785	25.64	.28	1.37	1.65	214,721,981
1997	434,423,053	29.97	.34	2.08	2.42	273,760,444
1998	476,463,575	31.43	.29	1.65	1.94	301,750,135
1999	590,655,679	35.05	.26	2.34	2.60	394,282,360
2000	596,289,086	32.94	.32	4.03	4.35	363,263,634
2001	539,839,060	28.54	.22	1.58**	1.80**	304,887,640
2002	361,942,568	18.72	.14	1.11	1.25	119,501,484
2003	478,959,218	24.32	.11	1.29	1.40	229,388,141
2004	529,468,675	26.44	.11	1.21	1.32	271,710,179
2005	573,979,905	27.65	.28	1.72	2.00	302,381,671
2006	617,167,026	30.05	.58	1.64	2.22	351,924,627
2007	644,822,724	30.15	.52	1.88	2.40	356,551,394
2008	397,353,061	17.79	.36	2.10	2.46	94,752,477
2009	504,029,743	22.32	.33	.32	.65	197,256,447
2010	593,524,167	26.06	.46	.44	.90	281,081,168
2011	574,187,941	24.96	.43	.57	1.00	255,654,966
2012	569,465,087	24.53	.51	.43	.94	247,684,116
2013	648,261,868	26.78	.12	3.58	3.70	305,978,151
2014	649,760,644	26.18	.16	1.59	1.75	293,810,819
Dividends and	distributions for the	25-year period:	\$7.09	\$37.06	\$44.15	

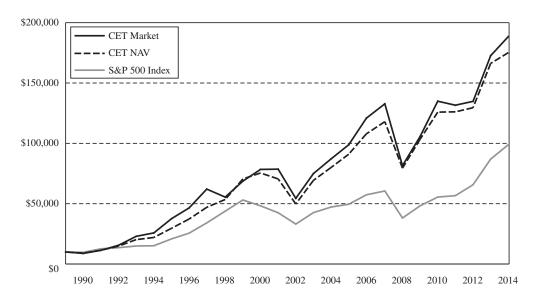
<sup>\*</sup> Computed on the basis of the Corporation's status as a "regulated investment company" for Federal income tax purposes. Dividends from ordinary income include short-term capital gains.

The Common Stock is listed on the NYSE MKT under the symbol CET. On December 31, 2014, the closing market price was \$21.97 per share.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Includes non-taxable returns of capital of \$.47 in 1990, \$.11 in 1991 and \$.55 in 2001.

# 25-YEAR INVESTMENT RESULTS ASSUMING AN INITIAL INVESTMENT OF \$10,000

(unaudited)



## Central's results to December 31, 2014 versus the S&P 500 Index:

Average Annual Total Return	Central's NAV Return	Central's Market Return	S&P 500 Index
1 Year	5.35%	9.52%	13.66%
5 Year	11.12%	12.17%	15.42%
10 Year	8.15%	8.08%	7.66%
15 Year	6.26%	6.93%	4.23%
20 Year	10.93%	10.41%	9.83%
25 Year	12.13%	12.46%	9.59%
Value of \$10,000 invested for a 25-year period	\$175,167	\$188,474	\$98,860

The Corporation's total returns reflect changes in market price or net asset value, as applicable, and assume reinvestment of all distributions. Distributions that are payable only in cash are assumed to be reinvested on the payable date of the distribution at the market price or net asset value, as applicable. Distributions that may be taken in shares are assumed to be reinvested at the price designated by the Corporation. Total returns do not reflect any transaction costs on investments or the deduction of taxes that investors may pay on distributions or the sale of shares.

The Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Price Index (the "S&P 500 Index") is an unmanaged benchmark of large U.S. corporations that assumes reinvestment of all distributions, and excludes the effect of fees, expenses, taxes, and sales charges.

Performance data represents past performance and does not guarantee future investment results.

## To the Stockholders of

#### CENTRAL SECURITIES CORPORATION:

Financial statements for the year 2014, as reported upon by our independent registered public accounting firm, and other pertinent information are submitted herewith.

## Comparative net assets are as follows:

	December 31, <u>2014</u>	December 31, <u>2013</u>
Net assets	\$649,760,644	\$648,261,868
Net assets per share of Common Stock	26.18	26.78
Shares of Common Stock outstanding	24,819,241	24,207,823
Comparative operating results are as follows:	Year 2014	Year 2013
Net investment income	\$3,078,246	\$ 2,343,328
Per share of Common Stock	.13*	.10*
Net realized gain from investment transactions	39,215,906	82,530,787
Increase (decrease) in net unrealized appreciation of investments	(12,167,332)	58,294,035
Increase in net assets resulting from operations	30,126,820	143,168,150

<sup>\*</sup> Per-share data are based on the average number of Common shares outstanding during the year.

The Corporation declared two distributions to holders of Common Stock in 2014, \$.20 per share paid on June 24 in cash and \$1.55 per share paid on December 22 in cash or in additional shares of Common Stock at the stockholder's option. For Federal income tax purposes, of the \$1.75 paid, \$.16 represents ordinary income and \$1.59 represents long-term capital gains. Separate tax notices have been mailed to stockholders. With respect to state and local taxes, the character of distributions may vary. Stockholders should consult with their tax advisors on this matter.

In the distribution paid in December, the holders of 44% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock elected stock, and they received 745,501 Common shares at a price of \$22.13 per share.

During 2014, the Corporation purchased 142,059 shares of its Common Stock at an average price of \$22.09 per share. 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 NYSE MKT or in private transactions directly with stockholders.

Central's net asset value, adjusted for the reinvestment of distributions, returned 5.4% during 2014. Over the same period, Central's shares returned 9.5%. For comparison purposes, the S&P 500 Index increased by 13.7%, while the Russell 2000, a broad index composed of smaller companies, increased by 4.9%.

The table that follows shows long-term results and compares our returns on an annualized basis with those of the S&P 500.

Years	NAV Return	Market Return	S&P 500 Return
5	11.1%	12.2%	15.4%
10	8.2%	8.1%	7.7%
20	10.9%	10.4%	9.8%
30	12.6%	12.4%	11.3%
40	14.7%	15.8%	12.2%

Significant contributors to our results for the year were, in order of importance, The Plymouth Rock Company, Inc., Intel Corporation, The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. and Analog Devices, Inc. Detractors included Coherent, Inc., Freeport-McMoRan, Inc., Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc., Murphy Oil Corporation and QEP Resources Inc.

We made a number of portfolio changes last year as reported during the year but our turnover remained moderate. Included among our new holdings are Rayonier, Inc., TRI Point Homes, Inc., Occidental Petroleum Corp. and Keysight Technologies, Inc., which was spun-out of Agilent Technologies, Inc. We reduced our holdings in The Bank of New York Mellon and Intel Corporation; and sold our holdings in CEVA, Inc., Vodafone Group Plc and Tesco Plc. Central ended the year with thirty-seven investments, the ten largest of which are listed on page eight of this report.

We expect that Plymouth Rock's 2014 annual report to stockholders will be available in April at www.prac.com/about-us/financial/annual-reports. Plymouth Rock's management has indicated that they anticipate earnings to be lower in 2014 than 2013. There are several reasons for this decline. Prime among them is that 2013 earnings benefitted from the sale of Plymouth Rock's interest in Homesite Insurance Group and some additional large investment gains provided by a strong stock market. Earnings in 2014 were negatively affected by other factors including winter weather and an increase in prior years' loss reserves.

The earnings of property and casualty insurance companies are affected by the weather and stock and bond market results, all three of which are in large part unpredictable and can vary greatly from year to year. As a result, experienced insurance company investors have observed that the increase in dividends and book value over the long-run is one of the best ways of judging an insurance company's investment merits. In this respect, Plymouth Rock has been exemplary. Over its entire thirty-year history, Plymouth Rock's book value rate of return including dividends and accumulated equity has been 18.2% (as of year-end 2013). Over the past five years, as shown below, the return has been 15.5%.

Year	Book Value per Share	Dividends per Share
2013	\$2,720	_
2012	\$2,215	\$116
2011	\$1,994	\$111
2010	\$1,951	\$136
2009	\$1,816	\$ 85
2008	\$1,543	\$ 85

We invested in Plymouth Rock at its inception and the only significant reduction in our holding occurred in the 2013 transaction in which Plymouth Rock repurchased approximately 30% of its outstanding shares. Shareholders often question us about this investment because it is large and there is no liquid secondary market for its common stock. Our approach is to continue to view our investment in Plymouth Rock as a long-term holding which we may reduce from time to time if we are able to do so at the right price. We believe that this patient approach will allow Central shareholders to maximize risk-adjusted investment returns.

The equity markets increased again last year with almost all major indices reaching record levels. Quantitative easing by central banks around the world has brought about artificially low interest rates which, in turn, have led to a big boost in the prices of tangible and financial assets. Prices of modern art, residential property in London and New York, as well as equity and bond prices, illustrate this effect. Monetary stimulus of this magnitude on a worldwide basis has never before been attempted and the outcome is considered by many to be quite uncertain. Eventually, good, well-managed companies should increase in value on both a relative and absolute basis, whereas dollar denominated assets such as bonds should be relative losers. Most market observers are predicting continued equity price improvement in 2015 although at a subdued rate. Given the record level of the equity markets and investor complacency about risk, however, we believe that attention to capital preservation is of paramount importance. Geopolitical risks in Russia and the Middle East as well as currency-related financial risks all loom.

Central's investment objective is long-term growth of capital. Our philosophy continues to be based on value investing combined with a policy of remaining generally fully invested. As noted above, in the current environment, we are particularly mindful of capital preservation. From a practical standpoint, we employ a variety of strategies. We do not use a particular formula. Our approach is to own companies that we know and understand, which we believe reduces risk. We also consider the integrity of management to be of paramount importance. We try to find new investments available at a reasonable price in relation to probable and potential intrinsic value over a period of years into the future and then hold them through the inevitable market ups and downs. We believe that Central's ability to take a long-term view will continue to be advantageous for shareholders.

Stockholder's inquiries are welcome.

CENTRAL SECURITIES CORPORATION
WILMOT H. KIDD, President

## TEN LARGEST INVESTMENTS

## December 31, 2014

(unaudited)

	Cost (mil.)	Value (mil.)	% of Net Assets	Year First Acquired
The Plymouth Rock Company, Inc.  Plymouth Rock underwrites and services \$1 billion in automobile and homeowner's premiums in the Northeast. It was founded in 1982 and has grown both organically and through acquisitions.	\$ 0.9	\$132.5	20.4%	1982
Intel Corporation	15.2	43.5	6.7	1986
Coherent, Inc.  Coherent is a leading producer of commercial and scientific laser systems and components with \$800 million in sales to diverse end-markets.	17.5	39.9	6.1	2007
Analog Devices, Inc.  Analog Devices designs, manufactures and markets integrated circuits used in analog and digital signal processing, and has \$2.9 billion in global product sales to industrial, communications, consumer, automotive & computer end-markets.	7.6	31.1	4.8	1987
The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation	16.1	25.4	3.9	1993
Citigroup Inc.  Citigroup is a diversified global financial services company for consumers and corporate customers, with revenues of \$77 billion.	19.7	21.6	3.3	2013
Brady Corporation	6.0	21.6	3.3	1984
Motorola Solutions, Inc.  Motorola Solutions, with sales of \$6 billion, is a leading provider of emergency-response and public-safety communication infrastructure, devices, software and services to governments and enterprises globally.	14.3	20.1	3.1	2000
Capital One Financial Corporation	13.0	19.8	3.0	2013
Agilent Technologies, Inc.  Agilent, with \$4 billion in sales, makes test, measurement, monitoring and analytical instruments for the life sciences, diagnostics and applied chemical markets.	7.2	19.7	3.0	2005

## **DIVERSIFICATION OF INVESTMENTS**

## December 31, 2014

(unaudited)

				Perce Net A Decem	
	Issues	Cost	Value	2014	2013
Common Stocks:					
Insurance	2	\$ 4,789,505	\$137,167,400	21.1%	17.7%
Technology Hardware and Equipment	5	52,288,250	83,530,406	12.9	12.5
Banking and Finance	4	56,583,410	77,763,750	12.0	10.5
Semiconductor	2	22,816,773	74,639,200	11.5	12.3
Health Care	3	23,679,897	45,449,200	7.0	8.5
Diversified Industrial	3	13,711,677	40,424,100	6.2	6.1
Software and Services	3	26,998,358	29,362,400	4.5	3.4
Energy	4	19,986,691	27,482,600	4.2	5.5
Retailing	2	13,193,272	22,322,550	3.4	4.7
Other	8	65,340,600	56,242,081	8.7	6.9
Preferred Stocks:					
Energy	1	2,027,220	842,785	0.1	0.4
Short-Term Investments	2	39,999,697	39,999,697	6.2	9.3

## PRINCIPAL PORTFOLIO CHANGES

October 1 to December 31, 2014

(Common Stock unless specified otherwise) (unaudited)

	Number of Shares		
	Purchased	Sold	Held December 31, 2014
Agilent Technologies, Inc.		110,000	480,000
Amazon.com, Inc.	3,000		13,000
Ascent Capital Group, Inc		27,600	_
Brady Corporation	40,000		790,000
California Resources Corporation	40,000 (a)		40,000
CEVA, Inc.		176,033	
Discovery Communications, Inc	50,000		50,000
GeoMet, Inc. Preferred Stock	10,424 (b)		343,994
Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc	100,000		588,712
Intel Corporation		50,000	1,200,000
Keysight Technologies, Inc	310,000 (c)		310,000
Rayonier Inc	27,300		427,300
Roper Industries, Inc.		10,000	80,000

<sup>(</sup>a) Acquired in a spin-off from Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

<sup>(</sup>b) Received as a dividend.

<sup>(</sup>c) Acquired 295,000 shares in a spin-off from Agilent Technologies, Inc.

## STATEMENT OF INVESTMENTS

## December 31, 2014

Shares			<u>Value</u>
	COMMON STOCKS 91.5%		
	Banking and Finance 12.0%		
625,000 240,000 400,000 175,000	The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation Capital One Financial Corporation	\$	25,356,250 19,812,000 21,644,000 10,951,500
			77,763,750
	Commercial Services 2.2%		
150,000	Clean Harbors, Inc, (a)		7,207,500
588,712	Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc. (a)		7,258,819
/-		_	14,466,319
	Consumer Goods 2.5%	_	11,100,317
150,000			5 624 000
700,000	Coach, Inc		5,634,000 10,675,000
700,000	TRI Folitie Hollies, flic. (a)	_	
		_	16,309,000
	Diversified Industrial 6.2%		
790,000	Brady Corporation Class A		21,598,600
250,000	General Electric Company		6,317,500
80,000	Roper Industries, Inc.	_	12,508,000
		_	40,424,100
	Energy 4.2%		
40,000	California Resources Corporation (a)		220,400
260,000	Murphy Oil Corporation		13,135,200
100,000	Occidental Petroleum Corporation		8,061,000
300,000	QEP Resources, Inc.	_	6,066,000
			27,482,600
	Health Care 7.0%		
480,000	Agilent Technologies, Inc		19,651,200
200,000	Medtronic, Inc.		14,440,000
200,000	Merck & Co. Inc		11,358,000
			45,449,200
	Insurance 21.1%	_	
10,000 34,434	Alleghany Corporation (a)		4,635,000
- 1,121	Class A (a)(b)(d)		132,532,400
		_	137,167,400
	Media 0.3%	_	
50,000	Discovery Communications, Inc. Series A (a)		1,722,500
50,000	•	_	1,722,300
150.000	Metals and Mining 1.8%		2 461 500
150,000	Cameco Corporation		2,461,500
400,000	Freeport-McMoRan Inc. (g)	_	9,344,000
		_	11,805,500

Shares		<u>Value</u>
	Real Estate Investment Trusts 1.9%	
427,300	Rayonier Inc	\$ 11,938,762
	Retailing 3.4%	
13,000	Amazon.com, Inc. (a)	4,034,550
240,000	Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc. (h)	18,288,000
		22,322,550
	Semiconductor 11.5%	
560,000	Analog Devices, Inc.	31,091,200
1,200,000	Intel Corporation	43,548,000
1,200,000	mor corporation (1)	74,639,200
	Software and Services 4.5%	74,037,200
220,000		12 246 400
220,000 50,000	eBay Inc. (a) International Business Machines Corporation	12,346,400 8,022,000
200,000	Oracle Corporation	8,994,000
200,000	oracic corporation	29,362,400
	T 1 1 W 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	29,302,400
6 <b>55</b> 000	Technology Hardware and Equipment 12.9%	20.002.040
657,000	Coherent, Inc. (a)	39,893,040
310,000	Keysight Technologies, Inc. (a)	10,468,700
300,000 484,900	Motorola Solutions, Inc.	20,124,000 1,134,666
3,000,000	RadiSys Corporation (a)	11,910,000
3,000,000	Solius Networks, Ilic. (a)	
		83,530,406
	Total Common Stocks (cost \$299,388,433)	594,383,687
	PREFERRED STOCKS 0.1%	
	Energy 0.1%	
343,994	GeoMet, Inc. Series A Convertible Redeemable	
- 10,22	Preferred Stock (e) (cost \$2,027,220)	842,785
Principal	SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS 6.2%	
Trincipal	V.C. T	
<b>*</b> 4.0.000.000	U.S. Treasury Bills 6.2%	
\$40,000,000	U.S. Treasury Bills 0.014% - 0.030%, due 1/8/15 - 1/22/15 (c)	39,999,697
	Total Short-term Investments (cost \$39,999,697)	39,999,697
	Total Investments	
	(cost \$341,415,350) (f) (97.8%)	635,226,169
	Cash, receivables and other assets	, .,
	less liabilities (2.2%)	14,534,475
	Net Assets (100%)	\$649,760,644
Non-dividend		

- (a) Non-dividend paying.
  (b) Affiliate as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940.
  (c) Valued based on Level 2 inputs see Note 2.
- (d) Valued based on Level 3 inputs see Note 2.
- (e) Dividends paid in additional shares.
- (f) Aggregate cost for Federal tax purposes is substantially the same.
- (g) Formerly known as Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc.
  (h) Formerly known as Walgreen Co.

## STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

## December 31, 2014

December 31, 2014		
Assets:		
Investments:		
General portfolio securities at market value (cost \$300,555,053) (Note 1)	\$462,694,072	
Securities of affiliated companies (cost \$860,600)	122 522 400	
(Notes 1, 5 and 6)	132,532,400 39,999,697	\$635,226,169
	39,999,097	\$033,220,109
Cash, receivables and other assets:	14 456 105	
Cash	14,456,105	
Dividends receivable	393,457	
Office equipment and leasehold improvements, net	24,645	14.060.022
Other assets	86,726	14,960,933
Total Assets		650,187,102
Liabilities:	100.004	
Payable for treasury stock purchased	189,994	
Accrued expenses and reserves	236,464	
Total Liabilities		426,458
NET ASSETS		\$649,760,644
NET Assets are represented by:		
Common Stock \$1 par value: authorized		
30,000,000 shares; issued 24,840,389 (Note 3)		\$ 24,840,389
Surplus:		
Paid-in	\$327,943,359	
Undistributed net realized gain on sale		
of investments	3,513,007	
Undistributed net investment income	122,235	331,578,601
Net unrealized appreciation of investments		293,810,819
Treasury stock, at cost (21,148 shares of		(460 465)
Common Stock) (Note 3)		(469,165)
NET ASSETS		<u>\$649,760,644</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

\$26.18

NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE

(24,819,241 shares outstanding) ......

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

For the year ended December 31, 2014

## INVESTMENT INCOME

Inaama	
Income	٠.

Income:		
Dividends (net of foreign withholding taxes of \$10,639)	\$ 7,440,063	
Interest	14,105	\$ 7,454,168
Expenses:		
Investment research	1,600,234	
Administration and operations	1,502,428	
Occupancy and office operating expenses	426,869	
Directors' fees	234,286	
Legal, auditing and tax preparation fees	149,190	
Software and information services	112,284	
Franchise and miscellaneous taxes	93,388	
Stockholder communications and meetings	71,375	
Transfer agent, registrar and custodian fees and expenses	62,808	
Miscellaneous	123,060	4,375,922
Net investment income		3,078,246
NET REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS) ON INVESTMENTS		
Net realized gain from:		
Unaffiliated companies	38,223,526	
Affiliated companies	992,380	39,215,906
Decrease in net unrealized appreciation of investments		(12,167,332)
Net gain on investments		27,048,574
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS RESULTING FROM		
OPERATIONS		\$ 30,126,820

## STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

For the years ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
From Operations:		
Net investment income	\$ 3,078,246	\$ 2,343,328
Net realized gain from investment transactions	39,215,906	82,530,787
Increase (decrease) in net unrealized appreciation of investments	(12,167,332)	58,294,035
Increase in net assets resulting from operations Distributions to Stockholders from:	30,126,820	143,168,150
Net investment income	(3,373,934)	(2,736,822)
Net realized gain from investment transactions	(38,792,772)	(81,454,103)
Decrease in net assets from distributions From Capital Share Transactions: (Notes 3 and 8)	(42,166,706)	(84,190,925)
Distribution to stockholders reinvested in Common Stock	16,497,937	32,402,928
Issuance of shares of Common Stock to directors and employees	179,106	177,888
Cost of treasury stock purchased	(3,138,381)	(12,761,260)
Increase in net assets from capital share transactions	13,538,662	19,819,556
Total increase in net assets	1,498,776	78,796,781
NET ASSETS:		
Beginning of year	648,261,868	569,465,087
End of year (including undistributed net investment income of \$122,235 and \$394,423, respectively)	\$649,760,644	\$648,261,868

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended December 31, 2014

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Increase in net assets from operations		\$ 30,126,8	20
Adjustments to increase in net assets from operations:			
Purchases of securities	(\$76,691,717)		
Proceeds from securities sold	82,416,747		
Net decrease in short-term investments	19,997,367		
Net realized gain from investments	(39,215,906)		
Decrease in net unrealized appreciation	12,167,332		
Non-cash stock compensation	179,106		
Depreciation and amortization	29,337		
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:			
Decrease in dividends receivable	127,075		
Decrease in receivable for securities sold	517,088		
Increase in office equipment and			
leasehold improvements	(1,939)		
Increase in other assets	(6,586)		
Decrease in accrued expenses and reserves	(52,993)		
Total adjustments		(535,0	<u>89</u> )
Net cash provided by operating activities		29,591,7	31
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Dividends and distributions paid	(25,668,769)		
Treasury stock purchased	(2,948,387)		
Cash used in financing activities		(28,617,1	<u>56</u> )
Net increase in cash		974,5	75
Cash at beginning of year		13,481,5	30
Cash at end of year		\$ 14,456,10	05
·			
SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURE OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:			
Non-cash financing activities not included herein consist of:			
Reinvestment of dividends and distributions		<b>.</b> 4.6.40 <b></b> 0	- <del>-</del>
to stockholders		\$ 16,497,9	31
Issuance of shares of Common Stock to directors		\$ 179,1	06
and employees			
Payable for treasury stock purchased		\$ 189,9	74

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Significant Accounting Policies—Central Securities Corporation (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. These policies are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

Security Valuation—Marketable common and preferred stocks are valued at the last or closing sale price or, if unavailable, at the closing bid price. Short-term investments are valued at amortized cost, which approximates fair value. Securities for which no ready market exists are valued at estimated fair value pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board of Directors. The determination of fair value involves subjective judgments. As a result, using fair value to price a security may result in a price materially different from the price used by other investors or the price that may be realized upon the actual sale of the security.

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 and net capital gains to its stockholders. Management has analyzed positions taken on the Corporation's tax returns and has determined that no provision for income taxes is required in the accompanying financial statements. The Corporation's Federal, state and local tax returns for the current and previous three fiscal years remain subject to examination by the relevant taxing authorities.

*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 as of the trade date, and cost of securities sold is determined by specific identification. Dividend income and distributions to stockholders are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

- 2. Fair Value Measurements—The Corporation's investments are categorized below in three broad hierarchical levels based on market price observability as follows:
  - Level 1—Quoted prices in active markets for identical investments;
  - Level 2—Other significant observable inputs obtained from independent sources, for example, quoted prices for similar investments or the use of models or other valuation methodologies;
  - Level 3—Significant unobservable inputs including the Corporation's own assumptions based upon the best information available. Investments categorized as Level 3 include securities in which there is little, if any, market activity. The Corporation's Level 3 investments consist of The Plymouth Rock Company, Inc. ("Plymouth Rock").

The designated Level for a security is not necessarily an indication of the risk associated with investing in that security.

The Corporation's investments as of December 31, 2014 are classified as follows:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total Value
Common stocks	\$461,851,287	_	\$132,532,400	\$594,383,687
Preferred stocks	842,785	_	_	842,785
Short-term investments		\$39,999,697		39,999,697
Total	\$462,694,072	\$39,999,697	\$132,532,400	\$635,226,169

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued

The Corporation may invest in exchange-traded securities that do not actively trade. Such securities will be classified as Level 1 if there are observable trading activities on the valuation date. Otherwise these securities will be classified as Level 2. The Corporation's investment in GeoMet, Inc. Series A Preferred Stock, which is such an exchange-traded security, was classified as Level 1 on December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2013, and its value was based on the closing sale price.

The following is a reconciliation of the change in the value of Level 3 investments:

Balance as of December 31, 2013	\$111,451,400
Net realized gains and change in unrealized appreciation of	
investments included in increase in net assets	
from operations	22,754,487
Sales	(1,673,487)
Balance as of December 31, 2014	\$132,532,400

Unrealized appreciation of Level 3 investments held as of December 31, 2014 increased during the year by \$22,375,600, which is included in the above table. In valuing the Plymouth Rock Level 3 investment as of December 31, 2014, management used a number of significant unobservable inputs to develop a range of possible values for the investment. It used a comparable company approach that utilized the following valuation multiples from selected publicly traded companies: price-to-book value (range: 0.6 – 2.3); price-to-earnings (range: 10.2 – 26.1); and price-to-revenue (range 0.6 – 1.8). Management also used a discounted cash flow model based on a forecasted return on equity ranging from 8%-9% and a weighted average cost of capital of 11%. An independent valuation of Plymouth Rock's shares was also considered. The value obtained from weighting the three methods described above (with greater weight given to the comparable company approach) was then discounted by 15% and 35% for the lack of marketability, which represents the range of rates management believes market participants would apply. The resulting range of values, together with the underlying support, other information about Plymouth Rock's financial condition and results of operations, the industry outlook and transactions in Plymouth Rock's shares, were considered by management, which recommended a value for the investment. All of this information was subsequently considered by the Corporation's directors, who selected the value.

Significant increases (decreases) in the value of the price-to-book value multiple, price-to-earnings multiple, price-to-revenue multiple and return on equity in isolation would result in a higher (lower) range of fair value measurements. Significant increases (decreases) in the value of the discount for lack of marketability or weighted average cost of capital in isolation would result in a lower (higher) range of fair value measurements.

3. Common Stock and Dividend Distributions—The Corporation purchased 142,059 shares of its Common Stock in 2014 at an average price of \$22.09 per share representing an average discount from net asset value of 17.3%. 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 stock distributions, or may be retired.

The Corporation declared two distributions to holders of Common Stock in 2014, \$.20 per share paid on June 24 in cash and \$1.55 per share paid on December 22 in cash or in additional shares of Common Stock at the stockholder's option. In connection with the December 22 distribution, 120,911 treasury shares were distributed and 624,590 shares of Common Stock were issued, all at a price of \$22.13 per share.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued

The tax character of dividends and distributions paid during the year was ordinary income, \$3,855,782 and long-term capital gain, \$38,310,924; for 2013, it was \$2,736,822 and \$81,454,103, respectively. As of December 31, 2014, for tax purposes, undistributed ordinary income was \$477,417 and undistributed long-term realized capital gain was \$3,513,007. Dividends and distributions are determined in accordance with income tax regulations which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. Financial statements are adjusted for permanent book-tax differences; such adjustments were not material for the year ended December 31, 2014.

4. *Investment Transactions*—The aggregate cost of securities purchased and the aggregate proceeds of securities sold during the year ended December 31, 2014, excluding short-term investments, were \$76,691,717 and \$82,416,747, respectively.

As of December 31, 2014, based on cost for Federal income tax purposes, the aggregate gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation for all securities were \$315,474,441 and \$21,663,622, respectively.

- 5. Affiliated Companies—Plymouth Rock is an affiliated company as defined in the Investment Company Act of 1940 due to the Corporation's ownership of 5% or more of the company's outstanding voting securities. During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Corporation sold 236 shares of Plymouth Rock for proceeds of \$998,280. The President of the Corporation is a director of Plymouth Rock.
- 6. Restricted Securities—The Corporation may from time to time invest in securities the resale of which is restricted. On December 31, 2014, the Corporation's restricted securities consisted of 34,424 shares of Plymouth Rock Class A stock that were acquired on December 15, 1982 at a cost of \$860,600. This security had a value of \$132,532,400 at December 31, 2014, which was equal to 20.4% of the Corporation's net assets. The Corporation does not have the right to demand registration of this security.
- 7. Bank Line of Credit—The Corporation has entered into a \$25 million uncommitted, secured revolving line of credit with UMB Bank, n.a. ("UMB"), the Corporation's custodian. All borrowings are payable on demand of UMB. Interest on any borrowings is payable monthly at a rate based on the federal funds rate, subject to a minimum annual rate of 2.50%. No borrowings were made during the year ended December 31, 2014.
- 8. Compensation and Benefit Plans—The aggregate remuneration paid to all officers during the year ended December 31, 2014 was \$2,466,710. This amount represents the taxable income to these officers and therefore differs from the amounts included in the accompanying Statement of Operations that are expensed in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Officers and other employees participate in a 401(k) and profit sharing plan. The Corporation has agreed to contribute 3% of each participant's qualifying compensation to the plan, which is immediately vested. Contributions in excess of 3% may be made at the discretion of the Board of Directors and vest after three years of service. During the year ended December 31, 2014, the Corporation contributed \$186,411 to the plan, which represented 15% of total qualifying compensation.

The Corporation maintains an incentive compensation plan (the "2012 Plan") which permits the granting of awards of unrestricted stock, restricted stock, restricted stock units and cash to full-time employees and non-employee directors of the Corporation. The 2012 Plan provides for the issuance of up to 1,000,000 shares of the Corporation's Common Stock over the ten-year life of the 2012 Plan, of which 973,805 remain available for future grants at December 31, 2014. The 2012 Plan limits the amount of shares that can be awarded to any one person in total or within a certain time period. Any award made

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS — Continued

under the 2012 Plan may be subject to performance conditions. The 2012 Plan is administered by the Corporation's Compensation and Nominating Committee (the "Committee").

A summary of awards of unrestricted shares of Common Stock granted and issued in 2014 is presented below. The fair value of unrestricted stock is the average of the high and low prices of the Corporation's Common Stock on the grant date.

	Officers and employees	Non-employee directors
Number of shares granted	6,855	3,000
Number of shares surrendered for withholding taxes	(1,879)	n/a
Number of shares issued	4,976	3,000
Weighted average grant date fair value	\$22.62	\$22.19

Pursuant to the terms of the 2012 Plan, each non-employee director is awarded 500 shares of vested unrestricted Common Stock at initial election to the Board of Directors and annually after re-election at the Corporation's annual meeting. The aggregate value of these awards made in 2014 was \$66,536. This amount plus cash payments of \$167,750 made to all non-employee directors are included in Directors' Fees expense in the accompanying Statement of Operations.

On December 12, 2012, the Corporation granted a performance-based award to an officer. Achievement of this award was based on the Corporation satisfying at least one of three performance goals determined by the Committee over the period from January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014 (the "2014 Performance Period"). Two of the performance goals were based on the Corporation's absolute and relative investment performance and the third was based on its ratio of expenses to average net assets. The maximum amount that could have been paid under this grant was \$1,000,000, of which a maximum of one-third of this amount relates to each performance goal. The Committee had full discretion to reduce the amount awarded for the achievement of any of the performance goals to zero. For the 2014 Performance Period, the Corporation satisfied two of the performance goals. On July 23, 2014, the Committee awarded the officer \$204,250, of which \$102,120 was paid through the issuance of 2,502 shares of Common Stock of the Corporation (net of shares surrendered for withholding taxes) and the balance was paid in cash. The total award amount was accrued ratably during the 2014 Performance Period.

On July 23, 2014, the Corporation granted a new performance-based award to an officer. The terms of and the amounts payable under the new award are the same as for the award for the 2014 Performance Period described above except that the new performance period is the period from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015 (the "2015 Performance Period"). The Corporation accrues compensation expense relating to this award ratably during the 2015 Performance Period based on management's estimate of the final amount to be awarded. For the six months ended December 31, 2014, the Corporation accrued \$102,125 for this award.

9. Operating Lease Commitment—The Corporation has extended its operating lease for office space, which was to expire at June 30, 2014, until June 30, 2019. Future minimum rental commitments under the amended lease aggregate \$1.7 million as follows: \$374,884 annually in 2015–2018 and \$187,442 in 2019. The lease agreement contains escalation clauses relating to operating costs and real property taxes. Under the amended terms, the landlord may terminate the lease after December 31, 2015 with one-year's notice, in which case the Corporation's rental commitment would end as of the termination date.

## FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

The following table shows per share operating performance data, total returns, ratios and supplemental data for each year in the five-year period ended December 31, 2014. This information has been derived from information contained in the financial statements and market price data for the Corporation's shares.

The Corporation's total returns reflect changes in market price or net asset value, as applicable, and assume reinvestment of all distributions. Distributions that are payable only in cash are assumed to be reinvested at the market price or net asset value, as applicable, on the payable date of the distribution. Cash distributions payable in subsequent years are assumed to be reinvested at the year end market price or net asset value, as applicable. Distributions that may be taken in shares are assumed to be reinvested at the price designated by the Corporation.

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
Per Share Operating Performance:					
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 26.78	\$ 24.53	\$ 24.96	\$ 26.06	\$ 22.32
Net investment income*	.13	.10	.53	.43	.45
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)					
on securities*	1.02	5.85	(.02)	(.53)	4.19
Total from investment operations	1.15	5.95	.51	(.10)	4.64
Less:					
Dividends from net investment income	.14	.12	.51	.43	.45
Distributions from capital gains	1.61	3.58	.43	.57	.45
Total distributions	1.75	3.70	.94	1.00	.90
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 26.18	\$ 26.78	\$ 24.53	\$ 24.96	\$ 26.06
Per share market value, end of year	\$ 21.97	\$ 21.72	\$ 19.98	\$ 20.46	\$ 21.97
Total return based on market (%)	9.52	28.40	1.25	(2.50)	27.14
Total return based on NAV (%)	5.35	28.36	2.70	.18	21.73
Ratios/Supplemental Data:					
Net assets, end of year (000)	\$649,761	\$648,262	\$569,465	\$574,188	\$593,524
Ratio of expenses to average					
net assets (%)	.67	.77	.79	.71	.78
Ratio of net investment income to					
average net assets (%)	.47	.38	2.14	1.62	1.92
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	13.07	16.72	3.55	8.07	6.67

<sup>\*</sup> Based on the average number of shares outstanding during the year.

# REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

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 (the "Corporation") as of December 31, 2014, and the related statements of operations and cash flows for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year 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 the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and financial highlights are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our procedures included confirmation of securities owned as of December 31, 2014 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, 2014, the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the years in the two-year period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the years in the five-year period then ended, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles.

KPMG LLP

New York, NY January 30, 2015

## OTHER STOCKHOLDER INFORMATION

### Direct Registration

The Corporation utilizes direct registration, a system that allows for book-entry ownership and the electronic transfer of the Corporation's shares. Stockholders may find direct registration a convenient way of managing their investment. Stockholders wishing certificates may request them.

A pamphlet which describes the features and benefits of direct registration, including the ability of shareholders to deposit certificates with our transfer agent, can be obtained by calling Computershare Trust Company at 1-800-756-8200, calling the Corporation at 1-866-593-2507 or visiting our website: www.centralsecurities.com under Contact Us.

## Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures

The policies and procedures used by the Corporation to determine how to vote proxies relating to portfolio securities and the Corporation's proxy voting record for the twelve-month period ended June 30, 2014 are available: (1) without charge, upon request, by calling us at our toll-free telephone number (1-866-593-2507), (2) on the Corporation's website at www.centralsecurities.com and (3) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at www.sec.gov.

## Quarterly Portfolio Information

The Corporation files its complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the SEC for the first and the third quarter of each fiscal year on Form N-Q. The Corporation's Form N-Q filings are available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. Those forms may be reviewed and copied at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington D.C. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling 1-800-SEC-0330.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

Independent Directors	Age	Principal Occupations (last five years) and Position with the Corporation (if any)
L. PRICE BLACKFORD Director since 2012	63	Managing Director, Scott-Macon, Ltd. (investment banking) since 2013; Sagent Advisors (investment banking); Senior Advisor 2010–2013; Managing Director prior thereto
SIMMS C. BROWNING Director since 2005	74	Retired; Vice President, Neuberger Berman, LLC (asset management) prior thereto
DONALD G. CALDER Director since 1982	77	Chairman, Clear Harbor Asset Management, LLC since 2010; President, G.L. Ohrstrom & Co. Inc. (private investment firm) prior thereto. Director, Brown-Forman Corporation (beverages) until 2010, Carlisle Companies (industrial conglomerate) until 2009 and Roper Industries, Inc. (manufacturing) until 2008
DAVID C. COLANDER Director since 2009	67	Professor of Economics, Middlebury College; Lead Independent Director, Central Securities Corporation
JAY R. INGLIS Director since 1973	80	Retired since 2014; Vice President and General Counsel, International Claims Management, Inc. prior thereto
C. CARTER WALKER, JR. Director since 1974	80	Private investor
Interested Director		
WILMOT H. KIDD Director since 1972	73	Chairman and President, Central Securities Corporation; Director, Silvercrest Asset Management Group Inc. since 2012
Other Officers		
MARLENE A. KRUMHOLZ	51	Vice President and Secretary, Central Securities Corporation
ANDREW J. O'NEILL	42	Vice President, Central Securities Corporation since 2011; Investment Analyst, Central Securities Corporation, prior thereto
LAWRENCE P. VOGEL	58	Vice President and Treasurer, Central Securities Corporation

The address of each Director and Officer is c/o Central Securities Corporation, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10111. All Directors serve for a term of one year and are elected by stockholders at the Corporation's annual meeting. Officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Wilmot H. Kidd, Chairman
David C. Colander, Lead Independent Director
L. Price Blackford
Simms C. Browning
Donald G. Calder
Jay R. Inglis
C. Carter Walker, Jr.

#### **OFFICERS**

Wilmot H. Kidd, President
Marlene A. Krumholz, Vice President and Secretary
Andrew J. O'Neill, Vice President
Lawrence P. Vogel, Vice President and Treasurer

#### **OFFICE**

630 Fifth Avenue New York, NY 10111 212-698-2020 866-593-2507 (toll-free) www.centralsecurities.com

#### TRANSFER AGENT AND REGISTRAR

Computershare Trust Company, N.A.
P.O. Box 30170, College Station, TX 77842-3170
800-756-8200
www.computershare.com/investor

#### **CUSTODIAN**

UMB Bank, n.a. Kansas City, MO

#### INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

KPMG LLP New York, NY