

JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND

Form N-CSR

September 30, 2003

ITEM 1. REPORT TO STOCKHOLDERS.

John Hancock
Preferred
INCOME FUND

ANNUAL
REPORT

7.31.03

John Hancock [LOGO]

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

Table of contents

Your fund at a glance
page 1

Managers' report
page 2

Fund's investments
page 6

Financial statements
page 12

Trustees & officers
page 25

For your information
page 29

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

Dear Fellow Shareholders,

The stock market made a strong recovery in the first half of 2003. Historically low interest rates, improving corporate earnings and government stimulus in the form of tax cuts gave investors hope that the economy would soon begin to strengthen. The market's move up began in April and the breadth of the rally was enormous. As a result, the major indexes were able to wipe out their first-quarter losses and post solid gains for the first seven months of the year. With technology leading the way, the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index rose 29.91% through July, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 12.25% and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index returned 13.72%. With falling interest rates, bonds also did well, although they began to reverse course in July. High-yield bonds led the pack, returning 17.18% through July, as measured by the Lehman High Yield Index.

After the jarring stock-market losses of the last three years, it's a welcome relief for investors to be reminded that the market is indeed cyclical, and does move up - not just down. And mutual fund investors finally liked what they saw in their second-quarter statements: positive results. With the exception of bear funds, which bet on the market going down, every fund category tracked by Morningstar, Inc. and Lipper, Inc. posted double-digit gains in the second quarter.

Whether this rally can be sustained depends in large part on whether the economy actually does rebound, and by how much, and how corporate earnings fare. It will also depend on how soon a lot of the investors still sitting on the sidelines decide to get back into the stock market.

No matter what happens next, the dramatic reversal in the stock market's fortunes, and other economic improvements, could be signals that it's time for investors to review their portfolios with their investment professionals to make sure they are well positioned to meet their long-term investment objectives.

Sincerely,

/s/Maureen Ford Goldfarb

Maureen Ford Goldfarb,
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

This commentary reflects the chairman's views as of July 31, 2003. They are subject to change at any time.

YOUR FUND
AT A GLANCE

The Fund seeks to provide a high level of current income, consistent with preservation of capital, by investing in a diversified portfolio of securities that, in the opinion of the Adviser, may be undervalued relative to similar securities in the marketplace. Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its assets in preferred stocks and other preferred securities.

Over the last eleven months

[] Preferred stocks performed well as interest rates fell and dividend tax cuts loomed.

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

[] Utility common stocks posted a second-half rally as demand strengthened.

[] The Fund benefited from good security selection.

[Bar chart with heading "John Hancock Preferred Income Fund". Under the heading is a note that reads "Fund performance from inception August 27, 2002 through July 31, 2003." The chart is scaled in increments of 7% with 0% at the bottom and 14% at the top. The first bar represents the 13.46% total return for John Hancock Preferred Income Fund. A note below the chart reads "The total return for the Fund is at net asset value with all distributions reinvested and assuming a purchase at the offering price of \$25.00 per share less the \$1.125 per share sales load on the inception date, and a sale at the net asset value on the last day of the period."]

Top 10 issuers

2.7%	DPL, Inc.
2.7%	Shaw Communications, Inc.
2.5%	Interstate Power & Light Co.
2.4%	General Motors Corp.
2.4%	Nexen, Inc.
2.0%	AT&T Capital Corp.
1.9%	KeySpan Corp.
1.9%	Public Storage, Inc.
1.8%	J.P. Morgan Chase Capital X
1.5%	ING Groep N.V.

As a percentage of net assets plus the value of preferred shares on July 31, 2003.

1

BY GREGORY K. PHELPS AND MARK T. MALONEY, FOR THE PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TEAM

John Hancock
Preferred Income
Fund

MANAGERS'
REPORT

Preferred stocks have performed well amid mostly favorable conditions from the inception of John Hancock Preferred Income Fund on August 27, 2002, through July 31, 2003. Much of what was behind the preferred-stock rally was action by the Federal Reserve Board, which lowered interest rates on two separate occasions during the year. Also boosting preferred stocks was demand from income-seeking individual investors and income-oriented mutual funds looking for significantly higher yields than what companies paid on their bonds and common stocks. The yields on many preferred stocks - which generally ranged from 6% to 7.5% - continued to outstrip by a fairly wide margin the yields available on Treasury and corporate bonds, as well as the dividends paid on common stocks. Demand also strengthened in advance of, and in response to, President Bush's dividend

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

tax-cut package, which was passed in June. The final month of the Fund's fiscal year saw a dramatic rise in interest rates and bond yields that tempered an otherwise favorable backdrop for fixed-income-oriented investments, including preferreds. That said, rising interest rates offered a silver lining, providing us an opportunity to add preferred stocks we liked at more reasonable levels than had existed in prior months.

"Preferred stocks have performed well amid mostly favorable conditions from the inception of John Hancock Preferred Income Fund..."

FUND PERFORMANCE

From its inception on August 27, 2002, through July 31, 2003, John Hancock Preferred Income Fund returned 13.46% at net asset value (with all distributions reinvested and assuming a purchase at the offering price of \$25.00 per share less the \$1.125 per share sales load on the inception date, and a sale at the net asset value on the last day of the period). Over the same period, the

2

[Photos of Greg Phelps and Mark Maloney flush right next to first paragraph.]

average income and preferred stock closed-end fund returned 13.07%, according to Lipper, Inc., and the Dow Jones Utility Average - which tracks the performance of 15 electric and natural gas utilities - returned 1.24%. The broad market, as measured by the Standard & Poor's 500 Index, returned 9.92%.

UTILITIES SHINE

Preferred stocks issued by utility companies were some of the Fund's best performers during the period. When the Fund began operations in 2002, utility stocks remained under pressure, mired in the remnants of the Enron debacle. We took advantage of that weakness by adding companies we liked at attractive prices. That strategy began to pay off by early 2003, when utility stocks began an encouraging rally that extended through the end of the period. A return of investor confidence in utilities was set off by a growing sense that the sector had become undervalued relative to the market as a whole and relative to its historic value. Dividend tax relief also helped. Utilities historically have offered consistently high dividends, positioning them to benefit once tax relief was enacted. Furthermore, investors liked the fact that many utility companies had begun to clean up their balance sheets, renewing or extending financing and ridding themselves of money-losing unregulated subsidiaries - such as energy trading - that caused them pain in the post-Enron environment.

"Preferred stocks issued by utility companies were some of the Fund's best performers..."

One of our best-performing holdings in the utilities category was Dominion Resources. It benefited from a combination of factors including increased profitability in its oil and natural gas operations as energy prices remained at sustained high levels. The company also enjoyed strong performance in its regulated electric and gas utility operations. Public Service Enterprise

3

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

[Table at top left-hand side of page entitled "Top five industry groups1." The first listing is Utilities 56%, the second is Banks-United States 8%, the third Finance 5%, the fourth Oil & gas 5%, and the fifth REIT 3%.]

Group, another of our largest utility holdings, also performed well. It benefited from rising electricity prices during a colder-than-normal winter in its service area during the fourth quarter of 2002 and the first quarter of 2003. We also saw good returns from Cinergy Corp., a low-cost provider of coal-fueled energy, whose focus on cost-cutting aided the company's better financial results.

Some of our larger holdings in the financial services arena also topped our best-performers list. J.P. Morgan, for example, benefited from an increase in growth in the private banking business, as well as in their market share in underwriting stock and bond offerings. Merrill Lynch also performed well, thanks to its strong credit rating compared with its brokerage services group peers,

[Pie chart in middle of page with heading "Portfolio diversification1" The chart is divided into five sections (from top to left): Preferred stocks 82%, Capital preferred securities 7%, Corporate bonds 3%, Short-term investments 4%, and Common stocks 4%.]

as well as its success in diversifying across a broad range of financial services and investor categories.

In contrast, our holdings in TECO Energy Inc. were a disappointment. The company's credit rating was downgraded in response to its unsuccessful investment in non-regulated gas-fired electric generating plants. Despite this development, we continued to hold onto our stake in TECO because we believe

4

[Table at top of page entitled "SCORECARD". The header for the left column is "INVESTMENT" and the header for the right column is "PERIOD'S PERFORMANCE...AND WHAT'S BEHIND THE NUMBERS." The first listing is Dominion Resources followed by an up arrow with the phrase "High energy prices help boost profits." The second listing is J.P. Morgan followed by an up arrow with the phrase "Uptick in high-net-worth client/security underwriting." The third listing is TECO Energy followed by a down arrow with the phrase "Credit rating downgrade fosters concern over company's prospects."]

that most of the pain associated with the company's disappointing investment is behind it. In addition, it has very solid regulated electric and gas utilities in Florida and good longer-term prospects given its above-average customer growth rate and supportive regulatory environment.

OUTLOOK

For the balance of 2003, we remain optimistic about the outlook for preferred and utility common stocks. Much of our optimism stems from our macroeconomic outlook, which calls for a continually sluggish economy coupled with sustained

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

low interest rates, which should continue to prompt strong demand for relatively high-yielding preferred and utility common stocks. In our view, the steep increase in interest rates and bond yields that occurred from about mid-June through the end of July was more a reaction to technical factors in the bond markets than it was anticipation of a stronger economy and inflation. We're also heartened by the fact that the dividend tax relief plan enacted in June also could help boost demand for many stocks that pay high dividends.

"For the balance of 2003, we remain optimistic about the outlook for preferred and utility common stocks."

This commentary reflects the views of the portfolio management team through the end of the Fund's period discussed in this report. The team's statements reflect their own opinions. As such, they are in no way guarantees of future events, and are not intended to be used as investment advice or a recommendation regarding any specific security. They are also subject to change at any time as market and other conditions warrant.

The Fund normally will invest at least 25% of its managed assets in securities of companies in the utilities industry. Such an investment concentration makes the Fund more susceptible than a broader diversified fund to factors adversely affecting the utilities industry. Sector investing is subject to greater risks than the market as a whole.

1 As a percentage of the Fund's portfolio on July 31, 2003.

5

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FUND'S
INVESTMENTS

Securities owned by the Fund on July 31, 2003

This schedule is divided into five main categories: common stocks, preferred stocks, capital preferred securities, corporate bonds and short-term investments. The common stocks, preferred stocks, capital preferred securities and corporate bonds are further broken down by industry group. Short-term investments, which represent the Fund's cash position, are listed last.

SHARES ISSUER,

DESCRIPTION

COMMON STOCKS 5.48%

(Cost \$33,789,140)

Utilities 5.48%

236,100

150,000

Alliant Energy Corp.

Duke Energy Corp.

6

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

560,000	NiSource, Inc.
271,600	Peoples Energy Corp.
20,000	Progress Energy, Inc.
220,000	Scottish Power Plc, American Depositary Receipts (United Kingdom)

PREFERRED STOCKS 116.07%

(Cost \$731,300,333)

Agricultural Operations 1.97%

143,000	Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., 6.25%, Ser A (R)
---------	---

Automobiles/Trucks 3.69%

50,000	Ford Motor Co., 7.50%
89,000	General Motors Corp., 7.25%
378,700	General Motors Corp., 7.25%
254,300	General Motors Corp., 7.25%
134,325	General Motors Corp., 7.375%
70,000	General Motors Corp., 7.375%

Banks - Foreign 3.89%

25,000	Abbey National Plc, 7.00% (United Kingdom)
32,000	Abbey National Plc, 7.25% (United Kingdom)

See notes to
financial statements.

6

SHARES ISSUER,

DESCRIPTION

Banks - Foreign (continued)

350,000	Abbey National Plc, 7.375% (United Kingdom)
150,000	ABN AMRO Capital Funding Trust V, 5.90%
475,900	Royal Bank of Scotland Group Plc, 5.75%, Ser B (United Kingdom)

Banks - United States 10.16%

25,000	BAC Capital Trust IV, 5.875%
20,500	Bank One Capital Trust V, 8.00%
55,500	Bank One Capital Trust VI, 7.20%
40,000	BNY Capital V, 5.95%, Ser F
71,000	Chase Capital VII, 7.00%, Ser G
171,400	Comerica Capital Trust I, 7.60%
292,500	Fleet Capital Trust VII, 7.20%
454,750	Fleet Capital Trust VIII, 7.20%
61,000	J.P. Morgan Chase Capital IX, 7.50%
577,100	J.P. Morgan Chase Capital X, 7.00%, Ser J
30,000	J.P. Morgan Chase Capital XI, 5.875%
28,900	NAB Exchangeable Preferred Trust, 8.00%
80,300	National Commerce Capital Trust II, 7.70%
46,856	Regions Financing Trust I, 8.00%
327,100	USB Capital III, 7.75%

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

165,700	USB Capital IV, 7.35%
62,199	USB Capital V, 7.25%
40,000	Wells Fargo Capital Trust VII, 5.85%
Broker Services 3.68%	
93,400	Bear Stearns Capital Trust II, 7.50%
40,600	Bear Stearns Capital Trust III, 7.80%
175,600	Lehman Brothers Holdings, Inc., 5.94%, Depository Shares, Ser C
85,200	Lehman Brothers Holdings Capital Trust II, 7.875%, Ser J
204,500	Merrill Lynch & Co., Inc., 9.00%, Depository Shares Ser A
49,452	Merrill Lynch Preferred Capital Trust IV, 7.12%
82,700	Merrill Lynch Preferred Capital Trust V, 7.28%
Diversified Operations 0.96%	
231,600	Grand Metropolitan Delaware, L.P., 9.42%, Ser A
Finance 7.33%	
418,328	AT&T Capital Corp., 8.125%
322,600	AT&T Capital Corp., 8.25%
67,000	Citigroup Capital VII, 7.125%
50,000	Citigroup Capital IX, 6.00%
315,600	Ford Motor Credit Co., 7.60%
79,650	Household Finance Corp., 6.875%
240,200	Morgan Stanley Capital Trust II, 7.25%
47,000	Morgan Stanley Capital Trust IV, 6.25%
317,000	Morgan Stanley Capital Trust V, 5.75%
30,208	Transamerica Finance Corp., 7.10%

SHARES ISSUER,

DESCRIPTION

Insurance 3.05%

27,200

Great-West Life & Annuity Insurance Capital I,
7.25%, Ser A

552,000

ING Groep N.V., 7.05% (Netherlands)

186,600

PLC Capital Trust IV, 7.25%

Leasing Companies 0.08%

34,200

AMERCO, 8.50%, Ser A

Leisure 0.33%

83,100

Hilton Hotels Corp., 8.00%

Media 4.48%

173,044

Newscorp Overseas Ltd., 8.625%, Ser A (Cayman Islan

328,418

Shaw Communications, Inc., 8.45%, Ser A (Canada)

665,100

Shaw Communications, Inc., 8.50% (Canada)

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

Oil & Gas 6.41%

43,800
352,704
517,300
538,600
97,300
69,000

EnCana Corp., 9.50%
Nexen, Inc., 9.375%, Ser 1 (Canada)
Nexen, Inc., 9.75% (Canada)
OXY Capital Trust I, 8.16%
Talisman Energy, Inc., 8.90% (Canada)
Talisman Energy, Inc., 9.00% (Canada)

REIT 4.69%

251,830
497,643
129,390
34,600

Duke Realty Corp., 7.99%, Ser B
Public Storage, Inc., 7.50%, Depository Shares, Ser
Public Storage, Inc., 8.00%, Depository Shares, Ser
Public Storage, Inc., 8.60%

Telecommunications 1.40%

343,620

Telephone & Data Systems, Inc., 7.60%, Ser A

Utilities 63.95%

69,700
480,000
200,000
512,507
30,700
40,000
174,000
15,143
230,000
116,400
42,800
136,200
115,200
117,600
210,435
74,600
253,476
100,000
25,400
220,000
85,700

ALLETE Capital I, 8.05%
Ameren Corp., 9.75%, Conv
American Electric Power Co., Inc., 9.25%, Conv
Aquila, Inc., 7.875%
Atlantic Capital II, 7.375%, Ser C
Baltimore Gas & Electric Co., 6.99%, Ser 1995
BGE Capital Trust I, 7.16%
Boston Edison Co., 4.78%
Cinergy Corp., 9.50%, Conv
Coastal Finance I, 8.375%
Consumers Energy Co. Financing I, 8.36%
Consumers Energy Co. Financing II, 8.20%
Consumers Energy Co. Financing III, 9.25%
Consumers Energy Co. Financing IV, 9.00%
Detroit Edison Co., 7.375%
Detroit Edison Co., 7.54%
Dominion CNG Capital Trust I, 7.80%
Dominion Resources, Inc., 9.50%, Conv
DQE Capital Corp., 8.375%
DTE Energy Co., 8.75%, Conv
DTE Energy Trust I, 7.80%

See notes to
financial statements.

8

SHARES ISSUER,

DESCRIPTION

Utilities (continued)

140,400
349,100
242,000
142,439
220,000

Duke Capital Financing Trust II, 7.375%, Ser U
Duke Capital Financing Trust III, 8.375%
Duke Energy Capital Trust I, 7.20%, Ser Q
Duke Energy Capital Trust II, 7.20%
Duke Energy Corp., 8.25%, Conv

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

34,400	Duquesne Light, 7.375%, Ser E
231,500	El Paso Tennessee Pipeline Co., 8.25%, Ser A
417,200	Energy East Capital Trust I, 8.25%
57,700	Entergy Arkansas Capital I, 8.50%, Ser A
70,400	Entergy Gulf States Capital I, 8.75%, Ser A
346,000	Entergy Mississippi, Inc., 7.25%
391,600	Enterprise Capital Trust I, 7.44%, Ser A
190,000	Enterprise Capital Trust III, 7.25%, Ser C
464,585	FPC Capital I, 7.10%, Ser A
120,000	FPL Group, Inc., 8.00%, Conv
37,400	HECO Capital Trust I, 8.05%
128,883	HECO Capital Trust II, 7.30%, Ser 1998
50,000	Idaho Power Co., 7.07%
36,547	Indiana Michigan Power Co., 6.875%
700,000	Interstate Power & Light Co., 8.375%, Ser B
145,900	KCPL Financing I, 8.30%
335,000	KeySpan Corp., 8.75%, Conv
94,400	MCN Financing II, 8.625%
168,400	Met-Ed Capital Trust, 7.35%
45,000	Monongahela Power Co., \$7.73, Ser L
235,000	Northern States Power Co., 8.00%
234,400	OGE Energy Capital Trust I, 8.375%
31,000	ONEOK, Inc., 8.50%, Conv
67,500	Penelec Capital Trust, 7.34%
91,700	Pennsylvania Power Co., 7.75%
108,400	Potomac Electric Power Co. Trust I, 7.375%
200,000	PSEG Funding Trust II, 8.75%
399,347	PSO Capital I, 8.00%, Ser A
7,900	Public Service Electric & Gas Co., 4.18%, Ser B
170,000	Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc., 10.25%, Conv
297,000	Puget Energy, Inc., 7.45%, Ser II
103,900	Puget Sound Energy Capital Trust II, 8.40%
404,600	SEMCO Capital Trust I, 10.25%
39,800	Southern Co. Capital Trust VI, 7.125%
12,000	Southern Union Co., 5.75%, Conv
264,100	Southwestern Public Service, 7.85%, Ser A
330,000	SWEPCO Capital I, 7.875%, Ser A
57,600	TDS Capital I, 8.50%
452,000	TDS Capital II, 8.04%
469,800	TECO Capital Trust I, 8.50%
500,000	TECO Energy, Inc., 9.50%, Conv
32,800	TransCanada Pipelines Ltd., 8.25% (Canada)
200,000	TXU Corp., 8.125%, Conv
410,000	Virginia Power Capital Trust, 7.375%
306,500	WEC Capital Trust I, 6.85%

SHARES ISSUER,

DESCRIPTION

Utilities (continued)

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

37,400 Western Resources Capital I, 7.875%, Ser A
 36,900 Western Resources Capital II, 8.50%, Ser B

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, PAR VA
 MATURITY DATE (000S)

 CAPITAL PREFERRED SECURITIES 9.45%

(Cost \$55,846,326)

Banks - Foreign 0.76%
 Lloyds TSB Bank Plc,
 Sub Bond Tier I (United Kingdom) 11-29-49 \$5,

Banks - United States 1.10%
 Summit Capital Trust I,
 Gtd Cap Trust Pass-Thru Security Ser B 03-15-27 6,

Telecommunications 1.02%
 TCI Communications Financing Trust III,
 Gtd Cap Security 03-31-27 5,

Utilities 6.57%
 DPL, Inc.,
 Gtd Cap Security 09-01-31 24,
 KN Capital Trust I,
 Gtd Cap Trust Pass-Thru Security Ser B 04-15-27 11,
 KN Capital Trust III,
 Gtd Cap Security 04-15-28 4,

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, INTEREST CREDIT PAR VA
 MATURITY DATE RATE RATING* (000S)

 CORPORATE BONDS 4.15%

(Cost \$26,493,544)

Banks - United States 0.34%
 Capital One Bank,
 Sr Note 06-15-05 8.25% BBB- 2,

Utilities 3.81%
 Black Hills Corp.,
 Note 05-15-13 6.50 BBB- 5,

Entergy Gulf States, Inc.,
 1st Mtg Bond 07-01-33 (R) 6.20 BBB- 5,

Midland Funding Corp. II,
 Deb Ser A 07-23-05 11.75 BB- 9,

NiSource Finance Corp.,
 Gtd Sr Note 11-15-03 7.50 BBB 5,

See notes to
 financial statements.

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

ISSUER, DESCRIPTION, MATURITY DATE	INTEREST RATE	CREDIT RATING*	PAR VA (000S)

SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS 5.86%			

(Cost \$37,800,000)			
Government - U.S. Agencies 5.86%			
Federal National Mortgage Assn., Disc Note 08-01-03	1.00%	AAA	\$37

TOTAL INVESTMENTS 141.01%			

OTHER ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, NET (41.01%)			

TOTAL NET ASSETS 100.00%			

* Credit ratings are unaudited and are rated by Moody's Investors Service or John Hancock Advisers, LLC, where Standard & Poor's ratings are not available.

(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 \$17,146,425 or 2.66% of net assets as of July 31, 2003.

Parenthetical disclosure of a foreign country in the security description represents country of a foreign issuer; however, the security is U.S.-dollar-denominated.

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.

11

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

ASSETS AND
LIABILITIES

July 31, 2003

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.

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

ASSETS

Investments at value (cost \$885,229,343)	\$910,187,779
Cash	63,254
Cash segregated for futures contracts	500,500
Receivable for investments sold	9,007,267
Dividends and interest receivable	3,226,926
Unrealized appreciation of swap contracts	3,936,437
Variation margin receivable	597,188
Other assets	40,708
Total assets	927,560,059

LIABILITIES

Payable for investments purchased	1,706,250
Payable for swap contracts	136,636
Payable to affiliates	
Management fee	14,025
Other	23,943
Other payables and accrued expenses	172,793
Total liabilities	2,053,647
Auction Preferred Shares (APS), at value, unlimited number of shares of beneficial interest authorized with no par value, 11,200 shares issued, liquidation preference of \$25,000 per share	280,013,566

NET ASSETS

Common shares capital paid-in	608,692,402
Accumulated net realized gain on investments and financial futures contracts	1,614,366
Net unrealized appreciation of investments, financial futures contracts and swap contracts	31,973,603
Accumulated net investment income	3,212,475
Net assets applicable to common shares	\$645,492,846

NET ASSET VALUE PER COMMON SHARE

Based on 25,661,053 shares of beneficial interest outstanding - unlimited number of shares authorized with no par value	\$25.15
---	---------

See notes to
financial statements.

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

 OPERATIONS

For the period ended July 31, 2003 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	\$49,649,791
Interest	7,247,156
 Total investment income	 56,896,947

 EXPENSES

Investment management fee	5,840,055
APS auction fee	476,029
Accounting and legal services fee	233,602
Federal excise tax	150,459
Custodian fee	142,427
Auditing fee	58,200
Trustees' fee	56,892
Organization expense	53,000
Transfer agent fee	50,434
Printing	45,398
Registration and filing fee	45,320
Miscellaneous	17,101
Legal fee	14,449
Interest expense	1,500
 Total expenses	 7,184,866
Less expense reductions	(1,557,348)
 Net expenses	 5,627,518
 Net investment income	 51,269,429

 REALIZED AND UNREALIZED GAIN (LOSS)

Net realized gain (loss) on	
Investments	3,596,394
Financial futures contracts	(1,039,550)
 Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of	
Investments	24,958,436
Financial futures contracts	3,078,730
Swap contracts	3,936,437
 Net realized and unrealized gain	 34,530,447
 Distributions to APS	 (3,051,520)
 Increase in net assets from operations	 \$82,748,356

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

1 Inception period from 8-27-02 through 7-31-03.

See notes to
financial statements.

13

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 inception of the Fund. The difference reflects earnings less expenses, any investment gains and losses, distributions paid to shareholders, and any increase due to the sale of common shares.

	PERIOD ENDED 7-31-03 1

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	

From operations	
Net investment income	\$51,269,429
Net realized gain	2,556,844
Change in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	31,973,603
Distributions to APS	(3,051,520)
Increase in net assets resulting from operations	82,748,356
Distributions to common shareholders	
From net investment income	(46,126,277)
From Fund share transactions	608,870,767

NET ASSETS	

End of period ²	\$645,492,846

1 Inception period from 8-27-02 through 7-31-03.

2 Includes accumulated net investment income of \$3,212,475.

See notes to
financial statements.

14

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

 FINANCIAL
 HIGHLIGHTS

COMMON SHARES

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

PERIOD ENDED 7-31-03 1

 PER SHARE OPERATING PERFORMANCE

Net asset value, beginning of period	\$23.882
Net investment income ³	2.02
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	1.32
Distributions to APS	(0.12)
Total from investment operations	3.22
Less distributions to common shareholders	
From net investment income	(1.80)
Capital charges	
Offering costs related to common shares	(0.02)
Offering costs and underwriting discounts related to APS	(0.13)
	(0.15)
Net asset value, end of period	\$25.15
Per share market value, end of period	\$24.32
Total return at market value ^{4,5} (%)	4.78 6

 RATIOS AND SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

Net assets applicable to common shares, end of period (in millions)	\$645
Ratio of expenses to average net assets ⁷ (%)	1.00 8
Ratio of adjusted expenses to average net assets ⁹ (%)	1.28 8
Ratio of net investment income to average net assets ¹⁰ (%)	9.11 8
Portfolio turnover (%)	20

 SENIOR SECURITIES

Total value of APS outstanding (in millions)	\$280
Involuntary liquidation preference per unit (in thousands)	\$25
Approximate market value per unit (in thousands)	\$25
Asset coverage per unit ¹¹	\$83,686

- 1 Inception period from 8-27-02 through 7-31-03.
- 2 Reflects the deduction of a \$1.125 per share sales load.
- 3 Based on the average of common shares outstanding.
- 4 Assumes dividend reinvestment and a purchase at the offering price of \$25.00 per share on the inception date and a sale at the current market price on the last day of the period.
- 5 Total return would have been lower had certain expenses not been reduced during the period shown.

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

- 6 Not annualized.
- 7 Ratio calculated on the basis of expenses applicable to common shares relative to the average net assets of common shares. Without the exclusion of preferred shares, the annualized ratio of expenses would have been 0.72%.
- 8 Annualized.
- 9 Ratio calculated on the basis of expenses applicable to common shares relative to the average net assets of common shares and does not take into consideration expense reductions during the period shown. Without the exclusion of preferred shares, the annualized adjusted ratio of expenses would have been 0.92%.
- 10 Ratio calculated on the basis of net investment income relative to the average net assets of common shares. Without the exclusion of preferred shares, the annualized ratio of net investment income would have been 6.59%.
- 11 Calculated by subtracting the Fund's total liabilities from the Fund's total assets and dividing that amount by the number of APS outstanding as of the applicable 1940 Act Evaluation Date, which may differ from the financial reporting date.

See notes to
financial statements.

15

NOTES TO
STATEMENTS

NOTE A

Accounting policies

John Hancock Preferred Income Fund (the "Fund") is a diversified closed-end management investment 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.

Discount and premium on securities

The Fund accretes discount and amortizes premium from par value on securities from either the date of issue or the date of purchase over the life of the security.

Expenses

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

The majority of expenses are directly identifiable to an individual fund. Expenses that are not readily identifiable to a specific fund will be allocated in such a manner as deemed equitable, taking into consideration, among other things, the nature and type of expense and the relative sizes of the funds.

Organization expenses and offering costs

Expenses incurred in connection with the organization of the Fund, which amounted to \$53,000, have been borne by the Fund. Offering costs of \$617,673 related to common shares and offering costs of \$385,442 incurred in connection with the preferred shares were charged to the Fund's capital paid-in.

16

Financial futures contracts

The Fund may buy and sell financial futures contracts. Buying futures tends to increase the Fund's exposure to the underlying instrument. Selling futures tends to decrease the Fund's exposure to the underlying instrument or hedge other Fund's instruments. At the time the Fund enters into a financial futures contract, it is required to deposit with its custodian a specified amount of cash or U.S. government securities, known as "initial margin," equal to a certain percentage of the value of the financial futures contract being traded. Each day, the futures contract is valued at the official settlement price of the board of trade or U.S. commodities exchange on which it trades. Subsequent payments to and from the broker, known as "variation margin," are made on a daily basis as the market price of the financial futures contract fluctuates. Daily variation margin adjustments, arising from this "mark to market," are recorded by the Fund as unrealized gains or losses.

When the contracts are closed, the Fund recognizes a gain or loss. Risks of entering into financial futures contracts include the possibility that there may be an illiquid market and/or that a change in the value of the contracts may not correlate with changes in the value of the underlying securities. In addition, the Fund could be prevented from opening or realizing the benefits of closing out financial futures positions because of position limits or limits on daily price fluctuation imposed by an exchange.

For federal income tax purposes, the amount, character and timing of the Fund's gains and/or losses can be affected as a result of financial futures contracts.

On July 31, 2003, the Fund had deposited \$500,500 in a segregated account to cover margin requirements on open futures contracts.

The Fund had the following open financial futures contracts on July 31, 2003:

OPEN CONTRACTS	NUMBER OF CONTRACTS	POSITION	EXPIRATION	APPRECIATION
U.S. 10-Yr Note	455	Short	SEP 03	\$3,078,730

Interest rate swaps

The Fund may enter into swap transactions in order to hedge the value of the Fund's portfolio against interest rate fluctuations or to enhance the Fund's income. Interest rate swaps represent an agreement between two counterparties to exchange cash flows based on the difference in the two interest rates, applied

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

to a notional principal amount for a specified period. The payment flows are usually netted against each other, with the difference being paid by one party to the other.

Accrued interest receivable or payable on the swap contracts is recorded daily as interest income or as an offset to interest income. The Fund settles accrued net receivable or payable under the swap contracts on a periodic basis. The Fund records changes in the value of the swaps as unrealized gains or losses on swap contracts. The Fund records realized gains or losses at the time the swap contracts are closed out.

Swap contracts are subject to risks related to the counterparty's ability to perform under the contract, and may decline in value if the counterparty's creditworthiness deteriorates. The risks may arise from unanticipated movement in interest rates. The Fund may also suffer losses if it is unable to terminate outstanding swap contracts or reduce its exposure through offsetting transactions.

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

17

The Fund had the following open interest rate swap contracts on July 31, 2003:

RATE TYPE				
NOTIONAL AMOUNT	PAYMENT MADE BY FUND	PAYMENT RECEIVED BY FUND	TERMINATION DATE	UNREALIZED APPRECIATION
\$70,000,000	2.56% (a)	3-month LIBOR	JUN 08	\$3,936,437

(a) Fixed rate

federal income tax on taxable income that is distributed to shareholders. Therefore, no federal income tax provision is required.

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 common and preferred shareholders from net investment income and net realized gains on the ex-dividend date. During the period ended July 31, 2003, the tax character of distributions paid was as follows: ordinary income \$49,177,797.

As of July 31, 2003, the components of distributable earnings on a tax basis included \$6,737,145 of undistributed ordinary income and \$1,225,035 of undistributed long-term gain. Such distributions and distributable earnings, 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

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

reported in the Fund's financial statements as a return of capital.

Use of estimates 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 daily management fee to the Adviser at an annual rate of 0.75% of the Fund's average daily net assets and the value attributable to the Auction Preferred Shares ("managed assets").

The Adviser has contractually agreed to limit the Fund's management fee to the following: 0.55% of the Fund's average daily managed assets until the fifth anniversary of the commencement of the Fund's operations, 0.60% of such assets in the sixth year, 0.65% of such assets in the seventh year and 0.70% of average daily managed assets in the eighth year. Accordingly, the reduction in the management fee amounted to \$1,557,348 for the period ended July 31, 2003. After the eighth year the Adviser will no longer waive a portion of the management fee.

The Fund has an agreement with the Adviser to perform necessary tax, accounting and legal services for the Fund. The compensation for the period was at an annual rate of 0.03% of the average managed assets of the Fund.

Ms. Maureen Ford Goldfarb and Mr. John M. DeCiccio are directors and/or officers of the Adviser and/or its affiliates, as well as Trustees

18

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 share transactions

Common shares

The listing illustrates the Fund's common shares sold, offering costs and underwriting discount charged to capital paid-in, distributions reinvestments, reclassifications of Fund's capital accounts and the number of common shares outstanding at the end of the period, along with the corresponding dollar value.

	PERIOD ENDED 7-31-031
SHARES	AMOUNT

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

Shares sold	25,590,309	\$610,968,628
Offering cost related to common shares	-	(617,673)
Offering costs and underwriting discount related to Auction Preferred Shares	-	(3,185,442)
Reclassification of capital accounts	-	(178,365)
Distributions reinvested	70,744	1,705,254
Net increase	25,661,053	\$608,692,402

1 Inception period from 8-27-02 through 7-31-03.

2 Net of \$1.125 per share sales load of the initial offering price of \$25.00 per share.

Auction Preferred Shares

The Fund issued a total of 11,200 Auction Preferred Shares (2,240 shares of Series M, 2,240 shares of Series T, 2,240 shares of Series W, 2,240 shares of Series TH and 2,240 shares of Series F) (collectively, the "APS") on October 23, 2002, in a public offering. The underwriting discount of \$2,800,000 has been charged to capital paid-in of common shares. Dividends on the APS, which accrue daily, are cumulative at a rate that was established at the offering of the APS and has been reset every seven days thereafter by an auction (except for the Series W shares, for which the initial reset date was April 23, 2003, at which time the Fund elected a Special Dividend Payment of 182 days for the subsequent distributions). Dividend rates on APS ranged from 0.95% to 1.95% during the period ended July 31, 2003. Accrued dividends on APS are included in the value of APS on the Fund's Statement of Assets and Liabilities.

The APS are redeemable at the option of the Fund, at a redemption price equal to \$25,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends on any dividend payment date. The APS are

19

also subject to mandatory redemption at a redemption price equal to \$25,000 per share, plus accumulated and unpaid dividends, if the Fund is in default on its asset coverage requirements with respect to the APS as defined in the Fund's by-laws. If the dividends on the APS shall remain unpaid in an amount equal to two full years' dividends, the holders of the APS, as a class, have the right to elect a majority of the Board of Trustees. In general, the holders of the APS and the common shareholders have equal voting rights of one vote per share, except that the holders of the APS, 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 APS and common shares.

NOTE D

Investment transactions

Purchases and proceeds from sales or maturities of securities, other than short-term securities and obligations of the U.S. government, during the period ended July 31, 2003, aggregated \$2,401,749,314 and \$148,332,448, respectively.

The cost of investments owned on July 31, 2003, including short-term investments, for federal income tax purposes was \$885,255,240. Gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of investments aggregated \$38,703,575 and \$13,771,036, respectively, resulting in net unrealized appreciation of \$24,932,539. The appreciation of swap contracts for federal tax purposes was \$3,936,437. The difference between book basis and tax basis net unrealized

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

appreciation of investments is attributable primarily to the tax deferral of losses on wash sales.

NOTE E

Reclassification of accounts

During the period ended July 31, 2003, the Fund reclassified amounts to reflect a decrease in accumulated net realized gain on investments of \$942,478, an increase in accumulated net investment income of \$1,120,843 and a decrease in capital paid-in of \$178,365. This represents the amount necessary to report these balances on a tax basis, excluding certain temporary differences, as of July 31, 2003. Additional adjustments may be needed in subsequent reporting periods. These reclassifications, which have no impact on the net asset value of the Fund, are primarily attributable to certain differences in the computation of distributable income and capital gains under federal tax rules versus accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, book and tax differences in accounting for deferred compensation, federal excise tax and non-deductible organization costs. The calculation of net investment income in the Financial Highlights excludes these adjustments.

20

AUDITORS'
REPORT

Report of Deloitte & Touche LLP, Independent Auditors

To The Board of Trustees and Shareholders of John Hancock Preferred Income Fund:

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the schedule of investments, of John Hancock Preferred Income Fund (the "Fund") as of July 31, 2003, and the related statements of operations, changes in net assets and the financial highlights for the period ended July 31, 2003. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements and financial highlights based on our audit.

We conducted our audit 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 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 at July 31, 2003, by correspondence with the custodian and brokers or by other appropriate auditing procedures where replies from brokers were not received. 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 audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, such financial statements and financial highlights present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Fund as of July 31, 2003, the results of its operations, the changes in its net assets, and its financial highlights for the period ended July 31, 2003, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP
Boston, Massachusetts

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

September 5, 2003

21

TAX
INFORMATION

Unaudited

For federal income tax purposes, the following information is furnished with respect to the distributions of the Fund paid during its taxable year ended July 31, 2003.

With respect to the ordinary dividends paid by the Fund for the fiscal year ended July 31, 2003, 79.05% of the dividends qualify for the corporate dividends-received deduction.

The Fund hereby designates the maximum amount allowable of its net taxable income as qualified dividend income as provided in the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003. This amount will be reflected on Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year 2003.

If the Fund paid dividends during the fiscal year end, shareholders will be mailed a 2003 U.S. Treasury Department Form 1099-DIV in January 2004. This will reflect the total of all distributions that are taxable for the calendar year 2003.

22

INVESTMENT
OBJECTIVE
AND POLICY

The Fund's primary objective is to provide a high level of current income, consistent with preservation of capital. The Fund's secondary objective is to provide growth of capital to the extent consistent with its primary objective. The Fund seeks to achieve its objectives by investing in a diversified portfolio of securities that, in the opinion of the Adviser, may be undervalued relative to similar securities in the marketplace.

Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least: (a) 80% of its assets in preferred stocks and other preferred securities, including convertible preferred securities, (b) 25% of its total assets in the industries comprising the utilities sector and (c) 80% of its total assets in preferred securities or other fixed income securities which are rated investment grade or higher by Moody's or Standard & Poor's at the time of investment. "Assets" are defined as net assets including the liquidation preference of APS plus borrowing for investment purposes.

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

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

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

23

Fund. There are no other charges to participants for reinvesting dividends or capital gain distributions.

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. 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 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

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

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.

24

TRUSTEES
& OFFICERS

This chart provides information about the Trustees and Officers who oversee your John Hancock fund. Officers elected by the Trustees manage the day-to-day operations of the Fund and execute policies formulated by the Trustees.

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES

NAME, AGE PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) AND OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS DURING PAST 5 YEARS	TRUSTEE OF FUND SINCE1	NUMBER OF JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE
---	------------------------------	---

James F. Carlin, Born: 1940 1992 32

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

Director and Treasurer, Alpha Analytical Inc. (analytical laboratory) (since 1985); Part Owner and Treasurer, Lawrence Carlin Insurance Agency, Inc. (since 1995); Part Owner and Vice President, Mone Lawrence Carlin Insurance Agency, Inc. (since 1996); Director and Treasurer, Rizzo Associates (until 2000); Chairman and CEO, Carlin Consolidated, Inc. (management/investments) (since 1987); Director and Partner, Proctor Carlin & Co., Inc. (until 1999); Trustee, Massachusetts Health and Education Tax Exempt Trust (since 1993); Director of the following: Uno Restaurant Corp. (until 2001), Arbella Mutual (insurance) (until 2000), HealthPlan Services, Inc. (until 1999), Flagship Healthcare, Inc. (until 1999), Carlin Insurance Agency, Inc. (until 1999); Chairman, Massachusetts Board of Higher Education (until 1999).

William H. Cunningham, Born: 1944

1995

32

Former Chancellor, University of Texas System and former President of the University of Texas, Austin, Texas; Chairman and CEO, IBT Technologies (until 2001); Director of the following: The University of Texas Investment Management Company (until 2000), Hire.com (since 2000), STC Broadcasting, Inc. and Sunrise Television Corp. (until 2001), Symtx, Inc. (since 2001), Adorno/ Rogers Technology, Inc. (since 2001), Pinnacle Foods Corporation (since 2001), rateGenius (since 2001), LaQuinta Motor Inns, Inc. (hotel management company) (until 1998), Jefferson-Pilot Corporation (diversified life insurance company) (since 1985), New Century Equity Holdings (formerly Billing Concepts) (until 2001), eCertain (until 2001), ClassMap.com (until 2001), Agile Ventures (until 2001), LBJ Foundation (until 2000), Golfsmith International, Inc. (until 2000), Metamor Worldwide (until 2000), AskRed.com (until 2001), Southwest Airlines (since 2000) and Introgen (since 2000); Advisory Director, Q Investments (since 2000); Advisory Director, Chase Bank (formerly Texas Commerce Bank-D Austin) (since 1988), LIN Television (since 2002) and WilTel Communications (since 2002).

25

INDEPENDENT TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)

NAME, AGE
PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) AND OTHER
DIRECTORSHIPS DURING PAST 5 YEARS

TRUSTEE
OF FUND
SINCE1

NUMBER OF
JOHN HANCOCK
FUNDS OVERSEEN
BY TRUSTEE

Ronald R. Dion, Born: 1946

1998

32

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, R.M. Bradley & Co., Inc.; Director, The New England Council and Massachusetts Roundtable; Trustee, North Shore Medical Center; Director, BJ's Wholesale Club, Inc. and a corporator of the Eastern Bank; Trustee, Emmanuel College.

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

Charles L. Ladner, ² Born: 1938	1992	32
<p>Chairman and Trustee, Dunwoody Village, Inc. (retirement services); Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, UGI Corporation (Public Utility Holding Company) (retired 1998); Vice President and Director for AmeriGas, Inc. (retired 1998); Director of AmeriGas Partners, L.P. (until 1997) (gas distribution); Director, EnergyNorth, Inc. (until 1995); Director, Parks and History Association (since 2001).</p>		
Patti McGill Peterson, ² Born: 1943	2002	30
<p>Executive Director, Council for International Exchange of Scholars (since 1998); Vice President, Institute of International Education (since 1998); Senior Fellow, Cornell Institute of Public Affairs, Cornell University (until 1997); President Emerita of Wells College and St. Lawrence University; Director, Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation (electric utility).</p>		
John A. Moore, ² Born: 1939	2002	30
<p>President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute for Evaluating Health Risks, (nonprofit institution) (until 2001); Senior Scientist, Sciences International (health research) (since 1998); Principal, Hollyhouse (consulting) (since 2000); Director, CIIT (nonprofit research) (since 2002).</p>		
Steven Pruchansky, Born: 1944	1992	32
<p>Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Mast Holdings, Inc. (since 2000); Director and President, Mast Holdings, Inc. (until 2000); Managing Director, JonJames, LLC (real estate) (since 2001); Director, First Signature Bank & Trust Company (until 1991); Director, Mast Realty Trust (until 1994); President, Maxwell Building Corp. (until 1991).</p>		
Norman H. Smith, Born: 1933	1992	32
<p>Lieutenant General, United States Marine Corps; Deputy Chief of Staff for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Headquarters Marine Corps; Commanding General III Marine Expeditionary Force/3rd Marine Division (retired 1991).</p>		
John P. Toolan, ² Born: 1930	1993	32
<p>Director, The Smith Barney Muni Bond Funds, The Smith Barney Tax-Free Money Funds, Inc., Vantage Money Market Funds (mutual funds), The Inefficient-Market Fund, Inc. (closed-end investment company); Chairman, Smith Barney Trust Company of Florida (retired 1991); Director, Smith Barney, Inc., Mutual Management Company and Smith Barney Advisers, Inc. (investment advisers) (retired 1991); Senior</p>		

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

Executive Vice President, Director and member of the Executive Committee, Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co., Incorporated (investment bankers) (until 1991).

26

INTERESTED TRUSTEES 3

NAME, AGE PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) AND OTHER DIRECTORSHIPS DURING PAST 5 YEARS	TRUSTEE OF FUND SINCE	NUMBER OF JOHN HANCOCK FUNDS OVERSEEN BY TRUSTEE
---	-----------------------------	---

John M. DeCiccio, Born: 1948	2001	54
------------------------------	------	----

Trustee

Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, John Hancock Financial Services, Inc.; Director, Executive Vice President and Chief Investment Officer, John Hancock Life Insurance Company; Chairman of the Committee of Finance of John Hancock Life Insurance Company; Director, John Hancock Subsidiaries, LLC (Subsidiaries, LLC), Hancock Natural Resource Group, Independence Investment LLC, Declaration Management Research LLC, John Hancock Advisers, LLC (the "Adviser"), The Berkeley Financial Group, LLC ("The Berkeley Group"), John Hancock Funds, LLC ("John Hancock Funds") and Massachusetts Business Development Corporation; Director, John Hancock Insurance Agency, Inc. ("Insurance Agency, Inc.") (until 1999).

Maureen Ford Goldfarb, Born: 1955	2000	54
-----------------------------------	------	----

Trustee, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer Executive Vice President, John Hancock Financial Services, Inc., John Hancock Life Insurance Company; Chairman, Director, President and Chief Executive Officer, the Adviser and The Berkeley Group; Chairman, Director, President and Chief Executive Officer, John Hancock Funds; Chairman, Director and Chief Executive Officer, Sovereign Asset Management Corporation ("SAMCorp."); Director, Independence Investment LLC, Subsidiaries, LLC, and Signature Services; Senior Vice President, MassMutual Insurance Co. (until 1999).

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS WHO ARE NOT TRUSTEES

NAME, AGE POSITION(S) HELD WITH FUND PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) AND DIRECTORSHIPS DURING PAST 5 YEARS	OFFICER OF FUND SINCE
---	-----------------------------

Richard A. Brown, Born: 1949	2002
------------------------------	------

Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer
Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

Treasurer, the Adviser, John Hancock Funds, and The Berkeley Group; Second Vice President and Senior Associate Controller, Corporate Tax Department, John Hancock Financial Services, Inc. (until 2001).

 Thomas H. Connors, Born: 1959

2002

 Vice President and Compliance Officer
 Vice President and Compliance Officer, the Adviser and each of the John Hancock funds; Vice President, John Hancock Funds.

 William H. King, Born: 1952

2002

 Vice President and Treasurer
 Vice President and Assistant Treasurer, the Adviser; Vice President and Treasurer of each of the John Hancock funds; Assistant Treasurer of each of the John Hancock funds (until 2001).

27

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS WHO ARE NOT TRUSTEES (CONTINUED)

NAME, AGE POSITION(S) HELD WITH FUND PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION(S) AND DIRECTORSHIPS DURING PAST 5 YEARS	OFFICER OF FUND SINCE
---	-----------------------------

 Susan S. Newton, Born: 1950

2002

 Senior Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer
 Senior Vice President, Secretary and Chief Legal Officer, SAMCorp., the Adviser and each of the John Hancock funds, John Hancock Funds and The Berkeley Group; Vice President, Signature Services (until 2000); Director, Senior Vice President and Secretary, NM Capital.

The business address for all Trustees and Officers is 101 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts 02199. The Statement of Additional Information of the Fund includes additional information about members of the Board of Trustees of the Fund and is available, without charge, upon request, by calling 1-800-225-5291.

- 1 Each Trustee serves until resignation, retirement age or until his or her successor is elected.
- 2 Member of Audit Committee.
- 3 Interested Trustees hold positions with the Fund's investment adviser, underwriter and certain other affiliates.

28

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

FOR YOUR
INFORMATION

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

TRANSFER AGENT
FOR DARTS
Deutsche Bank Trust
Company Americas
280 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10017

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS
Deloitte & Touche LLP
200 Berkeley Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02116-5022

STOCK SYMBOL
Listed New York Stock Exchange:
HPI

For shareholder assistance
refer to page 24

HOW TO
CONTACT US

On the Internet	www.jhfunds.com
By regular mail	Mellon Investor Services 85 Challenger Road Overpeck Centre Ridgefield Park, NJ 07660
Customer service representatives	1-800-852-0218
Portfolio commentary	1-800-344-7054

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

24-hour automated information 1-800-843-0090

TDD Line 1-800-231-5469

The Fund's voting policies and procedures are available without charge,
upon request:

By phone 1-800-225-5291

On the Fund's Web site www.jhfunds.com/proxy

On the SEC's Web site www.sec.gov

29

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U. S. Postage
PAID
MIS

John Hancock [LOGO]

1-800-852-0218
1-800-843-0090 EASI-Line
1-800-231-5469 (TDD)

www.jhfunds.com

P800A 7/03

ITEM 2. CODE OF ETHICS.

As of the end of the period, July 31, 2003, the registrant has adopted a code of ethics, as defined in Item 2 of Form N-CSR, that applies to its Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (respectively, the principal executive officer, the principal financial officer and the principal accounting officer, the "Senior Financial Officers"). A copy of the code of ethics is filed as an exhibit to this Form N-CSR.

ITEM 3. AUDIT COMMITTEE FINANCIAL EXPERT.

Charles L. Ladner is the audit committee financial expert and is "independent", pursuant to general instructions on Form N-CSR Item 3.

ITEM 4. PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT FEES AND SERVICES.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 5. AUDIT COMMITTEE OF LISTED REGISTRANTS.

Not applicable at this time.

ITEM 6. [RESERVED]

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

ITEM 7. DISCLOSURE OF PROXY VOTING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLOSED-END MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES.

See attached Exhibit "Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures".

ITEM 8. [RESERVED]

ITEM 9. CONTROLS AND PROCEDURES.

(a) Based upon their evaluation of the registrant's disclosure controls and procedures as conducted within 90 days of the filing date of this Form N-CSR, the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer have concluded that those disclosure controls and procedures provide reasonable assurance that the material information required to be disclosed by the registrant on this report is recorded, processed, summarized and reported within the time periods specified in the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules and forms.

(b) There were no changes in the registrant's internal control over financial reporting that occurred during the registrant's most recent fiscal half-year (the registrant's second fiscal half-year in the case of an annual report) that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, the registrant's internal control over financial reporting.

ITEM 10. EXHIBITS.

(a)(1) Code of Ethics for Senior Financial Officers is attached.

(a)(2) Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and Rule 30a-2(a) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached.

(b)(1) Separate certifications for the registrant's principal executive officer and principal financial officer, as required by 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as adopted pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and Rule 30a-2(b) under the Investment Company Act of 1940, are attached. The certifications furnished pursuant to this paragraph are not deemed to be "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or otherwise subject to the liability of that section. Such certifications are not deemed to be incorporated by reference into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933 or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, except to the extent that the Registrant specifically incorporates them by reference.

(c) Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures are attached.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

By:

Maureen Ford Goldfarb
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

Edgar Filing: JOHN HANCOCK PREFERRED INCOME FUND - Form N-CSR

Date: September 26, 2003

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the Investment Company Act of 1940, this report has been signed below by the following persons on behalf of the registrant and in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

By:

Maureen Ford Goldfarb
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer

Date: September 26, 2003

By:

Richard A. Brown
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Date: September 26, 2003

9/03