



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

JESSE WHITE • Secretary of State

TRACING THE VALUE OF OLD SECURITIES

The Illinois Securities Department does not maintain information regarding the value of older securities nor is it able to trace them. However, to assist consumers in search of this kind of information, the department offers the following suggestions:

If you have found some old stock certificates and you believe the company is no longer publicly traded on any exchange, you will need some basic information before you can determine the value of and/or redeem the shares, including: (1) the name of the company; (2) the date the shares were issued; and (3) the state in which the company was incorporated (all items should be on the certificate).

The first question to resolve is whether the company still exists today. You may find that its name might have changed or been acquired by another company. To initiate this effort, call or write the transfer agent listed on the front of each certificate. A transfer agent is responsible for handling the transfer of stock certificates and should be able to advise you on their value.

If you learn that the transfer agent no longer exists or cannot help you, try contacting the company directly. The stock certificates should show the state where the company was incorporated. With that information, contact the Secretary of State in that state and ask for the Business Corporations Section. ***In Illinois, contact the Secretary of State's Corporations Division at 217-785-8960 or 217-782-7880.*** For all other states, information regarding the Secretary of State can be obtained at www.encyberpedia.com/states1.html. They should be able to give you a history of the company (when it began, merged, dissolved, went bankrupt, etc.). From there you can contact the existing company (if there is one) to find out the value of your stocks.

The following online resources also may be helpful:

www.sec.gov/answers/oldcer.htm

www.bpl.org/research/kbb/tracestk.htm

Another resource is the *Robert D. Fisher Manual of Valuable and Worthless Securities*, published by R.M. Smythe & Company, Inc. Many larger reference libraries maintain a subscription to this publication. The Illinois State Library has it on microfilm; call 1-800-665-5576. For a fee, Scripophily.com will research whether your security has any value. A collection of old stock and bond certificates is available at www.oldcompany.com/.