

BANCROFT FUND LTD
Form N-CSR
January 10, 2013

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM N-CSR

CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number 811-02151

BANCROFT FUND LTD.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

65 Madison Avenue, Morristown, New Jersey 07960-7308

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

Thomas H. Dinsmore

BANCROFT FUND LTD.

65 Madison Avenue

Morristown, New Jersey 07960-7308

(Name and address of agent for service)

Copy to:

Steven B. King, Esq.

Ballard Spahr LLP

1735 Market Street, 51st Floor

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7599

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (973) 631-1177

Date of fiscal year end: October 31, 2012

Date of reporting period: October 31, 2012

ITEM 1. REPORTS TO STOCKHOLDERS.

BANCROFT FUND LTD.

2012 Annual Report
October 31, 2012

2012 Annual Report
October 31, 2012

Bancroft Fund Ltd. operates as a closed-end, diversified management investment company and invests primarily in convertible securities, with the objectives of providing income and the potential for capital appreciation; which objectives the Fund considers to be relatively equal, over the long-term, due to the nature of the securities in which it invests.

Highlights

Performance through October 31, 2012 with dividends reinvested

	Calendar YTD		1 Year		Annualized 5 Years		10 Years		10 Year Volatility *
Bancroft market price	11.35	%	7.36	%	1.16	%	4.91	%	14.87
Bancroft net asset value	10.17		7.20		1.21		5.47		12.68
Bank of America Merrill Lynch All U.S. Convertibles Index	11.60		9.15		2.37		7.66		12.56
S&P 500® Index	14.29		15.20		0.36		6.90		15.22

Bank of America Merrill Lynch All U.S. Convertibles Index and S&P 500® Index performance in the table above are from Bloomberg L.P. pricing service.

Bancroft's performance in the table above has not been adjusted for the fiscal 2004 rights offering (net asset value dilution was 2.38%) or for the 2008 tender offer (the anti-dilutive effect was 0.85%). Performance data represents past results and does not reflect future performance.

* Volatility is a measure of risk based on the standard deviation of the return. The greater the volatility, the greater the chance of a profit or risk of a loss.

Quarterly History of NAV and Market Price

Qtr. Ended	Net Asset Values			Market Prices		
	High	Low	Close	High	Low	Close
1/31/12	\$ 18.90	\$ 17.34	\$ 18.87	\$ 16.46	\$ 15.00	\$ 16.46
4/30/12	19.49	18.81	19.12	17.04	16.14	16.44
7/31/12	19.21	17.93	18.69	16.56	15.48	16.34
10/31/12	19.53	18.58	19.15	16.96	16.19	16.45

Dividend Distributions (12 Months)

Record Date	Payment Date	Income	Capital Gains	Total	Corporate Deduction #
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12/1/11	12/29/11	\$	0.1650	\$	—	\$	0.1650	28	%
3/15/12	3/29/12		0.1275		—		0.1275	21	
6/14/12	6/28/12		0.1275		—		0.1275	21	
9/13/12	9/27/12		0.1275		—		0.1275	21	
		\$	0.5475	\$	—	\$	0.5475		

Percentage of each ordinary income distribution qualifying for the corporate dividend received tax deduction.

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

To Our Shareholders

November 13, 2012

We anticipated that as the U.S. economy regained its footing, convertible securities would play an important part in the capitalization of the private sector's economic growth, but this development has not occurred as we expected. Although most convertible securities participated in this year's positive equities performance, the size of the market for convertible securities has not increased this year due to redemptions. What is interesting, however, is that although the U.S. convertible securities market has seen low levels of convertible securities issuance, the European convertible securities market has had a strong increase in activity. EU companies have issued \$22 billion (vs. \$19 billion in the U.S.) of convertible securities in the first eleven months of this year, perhaps marking the beginning of Europe's emergence from recession. Although the Bancroft Fund does not generally buy non-dollar denominated convertible securities, we view this trend as a positive one as it may expand into the U.S. markets. In fact, the last three months (including November, 2012) have seen good U.S. issuance. We are currently on a pace to see 70 or more issues with a cumulative market capitalization in excess of \$20 billion in calendar year 2012.

As of October 31, 2012 Barclays Research measured the cumulative value of the 520 U.S. domestic convertible securities outstanding at \$209 billion with over 81% of this market in the form of cash-pay bonds. The average current yield is 4.2% with an average premium to conversion value of 38.5%. Bancroft Fund's holdings also have an average current yield of 4.2% and have a median premium to conversion value of 38.5%. In this very low interest rate environment we find the convertible securities market to be attractive. With an average yield of more than twice that of the S&P 500® Index, convertible securities are a higher yielding risk-managed way to add equity exposure to a portfolio.

2012 has been a difficult year for convertible fund managers. From data provided by Bloomberg, of the 14 largest convertible securities mutual funds, only four have managed to outperform the Bank of America Merrill Lynch All U.S. Convertibles Index (BAML Index) for the calendar year-to-date and trailing twelve-month periods ended October 31, 2012, when adjusted for expenses (other than transaction costs) and dilution to make performance comparable. Although the convertible securities market in general is not illiquid, transaction costs are often higher than in the equities markets. These costs appear to be part of the explanation for this underperformance.

Performance for Bancroft Fund's fourth fiscal quarter of 2012 (ended October 31) was enhanced by exposure to the Consumer Discretionary and Materials sectors. Performance was held back, however, by the Fund's exposure to the Utilities and Energy sectors. When adjusted for expenses and dilution to make performance comparable to the BAML Index, the Fund's net assets underperformed for the calendar year-to-date, one-, five-, and ten-year periods, ended October 31, 2012. The Fund's market return underperformed the BAML Index for the calendar year-to-date, one-, five-, and ten-year periods, ended October 31, 2012.

Bancroft Fund invests in convertible securities with an intention to provide total returns to shareholders that compare favorably to those provided by equity markets, but with less volatility. We therefore note that the BAML Index and the Fund's net asset value and market return were less volatile than the S&P 500® Index as measured by their 10-year standard deviations. Moreover, the BAML Index and Bancroft Fund's net asset value and market return all outperformed that common stock index over the five years ended October 31, 2012. In addition, the Bancroft Fund's annual return over the ten-year period ended October 31, 2012, when adjusted for expenses and dilution, was only 14 basis points below that of the S&P 500® Index and achieved this result with considerably lower volatility as measured by 10-year standard deviation.

continued on the following page

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
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To Our Shareholders (continued)

We have put an updated version of our White Paper on Convertible Securities on our website. This document is intended to provide a solid introduction to the U.S. convertible securities market.

At its November 19, 2012 meeting, the Board of Trustees of the Fund declared a distribution of \$0.195 per share, consisting of undistributed net investment income. The distribution will be payable on December 28, 2012 to shareholders of record on November 30, 2012.

In recent years the Fund's shares have been trading at a discount to the NAV of the Fund. To take advantage of this difference, we encourage shareholders to consider participating in the Fund's Dividend Reinvestment Plan. The plan reinvests the Fund's dividends at the lesser of market value or NAV (up to a 5% discount to the market price) which allows shareholders to take some of the discount and use it to add to their performance. More details are available in the Miscellaneous Notes section of this Report.

The Fund's annual meeting of shareholders will be held on February 22, 2013. Information about the location of the meeting will be included in the proxy statement, scheduled to be mailed to shareholders on December 31, 2012. All shareholders are welcome to attend, and we hope to see you there.

Thomas H. Dinsmore
Chairman of the Board

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

Largest Investment Holdings by underlying common stock

	Value (Note 1)	% Total Net Assets	
Gilead Sciences, Inc. Gilead Sciences is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes medicines. Gilead's primary areas of focus include human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)/AIDS, liver diseases, and cardiovascular/metabolic and respiratory conditions.	\$ 2,717,036	2.7	%
Wells Fargo & Company Wells Fargo is a diversified financial services company, providing retail, commercial and corporate banking services through banking stores located in 39 states and the District of Columbia.	2,500,000	2.4	
EMC Corp. EMC and its subsidiaries develop, deliver and support the information technology (IT) industry's range of information infrastructure technologies and solutions.	2,173,507	2.1	
Nuance Communications, Inc. Nuance is a provider of speech, imaging and keypad solutions for businesses, organizations and consumers worldwide. The company's solutions are used for tasks and services, such as requesting information from a phone-based, self-service solution, dictating medical records, searching the mobile Web by voice, entering a destination into a navigation system, or working with portable document format (PDF) documents.	1,996,875	2.0	
Chesapeake Energy Corp. Produces oil and natural gas. The company's operations are focused on developmental drilling and producing property acquisitions in onshore natural gas producing areas of the United States and Canada.	1,952,625	1.9	
United Technologies Corp United Technologies provides high technology products and services to the building systems and aerospace industries worldwide.	1,903,300	1.9	
MetLife, Inc. MetLife is a provider of insurance, annuities and employee benefit programs, serving 90 million customers in over 50 countries.	1,895,677	1.8	
Bank of America Corp. Bank of America is a bank holding company, a financial holding company, and a financial institution, serving individual consumers, small	1,783,568	1.7	

and middle market businesses, corporations and Governments with a range of banking, investing, asset management and other financial and risk management products and services.

SunPower Corp.	1,643,125	1.6
SunPower is a vertically integrated solar products and services company that designs, manufactures and markets high-performance solar electric power technologies.		

Total	\$ 18,565,713	18.1	%
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Page 3

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
S

Major Industry Exposure

	% Total Net Assets	
Semiconductor Equipment	7.7	%
Biotechnology	6.9	
Software	6.6	
Insurance	5.6	
Metals & Mining	5.0	
Commercial Banks	4.7	
Oil, Gas & Consumable Fuels	4.7	
Real Estate Investment Trusts	3.4	
Computers & Peripherals	3.2	
Pharmaceuticals	3.2	
Total	51.0	%

Major Portfolio Changes by underlying common stock

Six months ended October 31, 2012

ADDITIONS

DFC Global Corp.

Exelixis, Inc.

Genesee & Wyoming Inc.

Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc.

Huntington Bancshares Inc.

Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Jarden Corp.

LifePoint Hospitals, Inc.

Linear Technology Corp.

Medicis Pharmaceutical Corp.

PPL Corp.

Priceline.com Inc.

REDUCTIONS

Citigroup Inc.

Dole Food Company, Inc.

EMC Corp.

Endo Health Solutions Inc.

Equinix, Inc.

General Cable Corp.

Intel Corp.

Liberty Interactive Corp. (CBS/VIA)

Linear Technology Corp.

Micron Technology, Inc.

Old Republic International Corp.

Onyx Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

Prospect Capital Corp.

PPL Corp.

Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc.

SBA Communications Corp.

United Technologies Corp.

Vale SA

WellPoint, Inc.

WellPoint, Inc.

Page 4

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL
REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS
Portfolio of Investments October 31, 2012

	Principal Amount	Identified Cost	Value (Note 1)
CONVERTIBLE BONDS AND NOTES - 64.7%			
Airlines - 1.4%			
Hawaiian Holdings, Inc., 5.00%, Due 3/15/16, (BB)	\$ 1,375,000	\$ 1,405,243	\$ 1,456,639
Biotechnology - 6.9%			
Amgen Inc., 0.375%, Due 2/1/13, (BBB)	1,000,000	999,071	1,133,750
Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 2.25%, Due 6/15/13, (A)	750,000	747,355	1,042,500
Exelixis, Inc., 4.25%, Due 8/15/19, (BB)	500,000	510,534	528,125
Gilead Sciences, Inc., 1.00%, Due 5/1/14, (BBB)	750,000	764,246	1,141,406
Gilead Sciences, Inc., 1.625%, Due 5/1/16, (A)	1,000,000	1,082,182	1,575,630
Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 2.75%, Due 10/1/19, (BB) (1)	600,000	626,110	562,500
Regeneron Pharmaceuticals Inc., 1.875%, Due 10/1/16, (A)	250,000	245,994	446,250
Vertex Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 3.35%, Due 10/1/15, (BBB)	500,000	550,269	598,125
		5,525,761	7,028,286
Capital Markets - 1.5%			
Knight Capital Group, Inc., 3.50%, Due 3/15/15, (BB)	500,000	500,929	462,500
Prospect Capital Corp., 5.75%, Due 3/15/18, (BBB) (1)	1,000,000	980,650	1,025,625
		1,481,579	1,488,125
Communications Equipment - 1.5%			
Finisar Corp., 5.00%, Due 10/15/29, (NR)	75,000	76,994	111,422
Ixia, 3.00%, Due 12/15/15, (BBB)	300,000	329,183	328,875
InterDigital, Inc., 2.50%, Due 3/15/16, (BBB)	1,000,000	1,035,795	1,049,375
		1,441,972	1,489,672
Computers & Peripherals - 3.2%			
EMC Corp., 1.75%, Due 12/1/13, (A)	1,400,000	1,458,963	2,173,507
NetApp Inc., 1.75%, Due 6/1/13, (A)	500,000	551,603	528,125
SanDisk Corp., 1.50%, Due 8/15/17, (BBB)	500,000	497,803	557,812

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		2,508,369	3,259,444
Construction Materials - 1.0%			
CEMEX S.A.B. de C.V., 4.875%, Due 3/15/15, (NR)	1,000,000	1,021,779	1,042,500
Consumer Finance - 1.0%			
DFC Global Corp., 3.25%, Due 4/15/17, (B) (1)	1,000,000	1,044,240	1,054,375
Diversified Telecommunication Services - 0.7%			
Alaska Communications Systems Inc., 6.25%, Due 5/1/18, (B)	1,000,000	925,435	681,250
Energy Equipment & Services - 1.0%			
Hornbeck Offshore Services, Inc., 1.50%, Due 9/1/19, (BB) (1)	1,000,000	1,012,246	1,007,500
Food Products - 0.4%			
Chiquita Brands International, 4.25%, Due 8/15/16, (CCC)	500,000	489,563	436,875
Health Care Equipment & Supplies - 2.0%			
Chemed Corp., 1.875%, Due 5/15/14, (A)	890,000	884,561	933,388
Insulet Corp., 3.75%, Due 6/15/16, (A)	1,000,000	1,021,406	1,105,625
		1,905,967	2,039,013
Health Care Providers & Services - 0.5%			
Lifepoint Hospitals, Inc., 3.50%, Due 5/15/14, (BB)	500,000	525,768	516,250
Hotels, Restaurants & Leisure - 2.3%			
Home Inns & Hotels Management Inc., 2.00%, Due 12/15/15, (NR)	500,000	500,000	437,812
MGM Resorts International, 4.25%, Due 4/15/15, (B)	1,000,000	1,003,112	1,027,500
Morgans Hotel Group Co., 2.375%, Due 10/15/14, (BB)	1,000,000	1,008,469	920,000
		2,511,581	2,385,312
Household Durables - 1.2%			
Jarden Corp., 1.875%, Due 9/15/18, (BB) (1)	1,250,000	1,258,281	1,256,250

continued

See accompanying notes to financial statements

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
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Portfolio of Investments October 31, 2012 (continued)

	Principal Amount	Identified Cost	Value (Note 1)
CONVERTIBLE BONDS AND NOTES - continued			
Insurance - 3.8%			
AmTrust Financial Services, Inc., 5.50%, Due 12/15/21, (AAA)	\$ 1,250,000	\$ 1,287,422	\$ 1,407,031
National Financial Partners Corp., 4.00%, Due 6/15/17, (AA)	750,000	750,000	1,185,938
Tower Group, Inc., 5.00%, Due 9/15/14, (A)	1,250,000	1,300,250	1,283,594
		3,337,672	3,876,563
Internet & Catalog Retail - 1.5%			
Priceline.com Inc., 1.25%, Due 3/15/15, (BBB) (1)	450,000	886,584	877,781
Priceline.com Inc., 1.00%, Due 3/15/18, (BBB) (1)	615,000	614,899	648,441
		1,501,483	1,526,222
Internet Software & Services - 2.2%			
Digital River, Inc., 2.00%, Due 11/1/30, (BBB)	1,000,000	1,000,000	962,500
Equinix, Inc., 3.00%, Due 10/15/14, (BB)	750,000	857,866	1,273,594
		1,857,866	2,236,094
IT Services - 0.7%			
CSG Systems International, Inc., 3.00%, Due 3/1/17, (A)	650,000	640,427	724,750
Machinery - 0.6%			
Chart Industries, Inc., 2.00%, Due 8/1/18, (B)	500,000	502,342	639,375
Marine - 0.9%			
DryShips Inc., 5.00%, Due 12/1/14, (BB)	500,000	500,000	410,938
Ultrapetrol (Bahamas) Ltd., 7.25%, Due 1/15/17, (NR)	750,000	756,623	508,125
		1,256,623	919,063
Metals & Mining - 4.5%			
A.M. Castle & Co., 7.00%, Due 12/15/17, (B) (1)	250,000	250,000	348,125
Kaiser Aluminum Corp., 4.50%, Due 4/1/15, (BB)	1,000,000	1,012,361	1,357,500
	500,000	634,667	710,625

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Newmont Mining Corp., 1.625%, Due 7/15/17, (BBB)			
Northgate Minerals Corp., 3.50%, Due 10/1/16, (NR)	500,000	500,000	569,688
RTI International Metals, Inc., 3.00%, Due 12/1/15, (BB)	600,000	623,721	625,125
Stillwater Mining Company, 1.75%, Due 10/15/32, (BBB)	250,000	250,000	258,906
United States Steel Corp., 4.00%, Due 5/15/14, (B)	750,000	827,686	769,219
		4,098,435	4,639,188
Oil Gas & Consumable Fuels - 1.4%			
Endeavour International Corp., 5.50%, Due 7/15/16, (CCC)	500,000	500,000	440,938
Goodrich Petroleum Corp., 5.00%, Due 10/1/29, (CCC)	1,000,000	1,013,600	948,125
		1,513,600	1,389,063
Pharmaceuticals - 3.2%			
The Medicines Company, 1.375%, Due 6/1/17, (A) (1)	250,000	250,000	260,469
Medicis Pharmaceutical Corp., 1.375%, Due 6/1/17, (NR)	750,000	749,568	811,875
Mylan Inc., 3.75%, Due 9/15/15, (BBB)	750,000	1,115,491	1,486,406
Salix Pharmaceuticals Ltd., 2.75%, Due 5/15/15, (BBB)	600,000	632,722	683,625
		2,747,781	3,242,375
Real Estate Investment Trusts - 2.8%			
Annaly Capital Management, Inc., 4.00%, Due 2/15/15, (BB)	750,000	745,033	924,375
Corporate Office Properties Trust, 4.25%, Due 4/15/30, (NR)	500,000	495,409	515,625
Lexington Realty Trust, 6.00%, Due 1/15/30, (AA)	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,438,125
		2,240,442	2,878,125
Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment - 7.1%			
GT Advanced Technologies, Inc., 3.00%, Due 10/1/17, (B)	250,000	250,000	227,344
JinkoSolar Holding Co. Ltd., 4.00%, Due 5/15/16, (NR)	500,000	500,000	187,812
Lam Research Corp., 1.25%, Due 5/15/18, (BBB)	500,000	474,868	490,312
Micron Technology, Inc., 3.125%, Due 5/1/32, (BB) (1)	1,000,000	980,531	893,750
Micron Technology, Inc., 1.50%, Due 8/1/31, (BB)	625,000	581,487	535,938
Photronics, Inc., 3.25%, Due 4/1/16, (BBB)	1,000,000	980,705	969,375
Renesola Ltd., 4.125%, Due 3/15/18, (NR)	500,000	500,000	255,000

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Rudolph Technologies Inc., 3.75%, Due 7/15/16, (A)	500,000	500,000	526,875
SunPower Corp., 4.75%, Due 4/15/14, (B)	500,000	525,692	480,625
SunPower Corp., 4.50%, Due 3/15/15, (B)	1,250,000	1,264,156	1,162,500
Trina Solar Ltd., 4.00%, Due 7/15/13, (NR)	1,000,000	962,802	903,125
Xilinx, Inc., 2.625%, Due 6/15/17, (BBB)	500,000	550,958	650,000
continued		8,071,199	7,282,656

See accompanying notes to financial statements

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
S

Portfolio of Investments October 31, 2012 (continued)

	Principal Amount	Identified Cost	Value (Note 1)
CONVERTIBLE BONDS AND NOTES - continued			
Software - 6.6%			
Electronic Arts, 0.75%, Due 7/15/16, (BBB)	\$ 500,000	\$ 469,670	\$ 455,938
Mentor Graphics Corp., 4.00%, Due 4/1/31, (A)	500,000	513,727	568,438
Microsoft Corp., 0.00%, Due 6/15/13, (AAA) (2)	500,000	500,000	513,125
Nuance Communications, Inc., 2.75%, Due 8/15/27, (BB)	1,500,000	1,591,097	1,996,875
Rovi Corp., 2.625%, Due 2/15/40, (BB)	1,000,000	1,114,593	995,625
THQ Inc., 5.00%, Due 8/15/14, (CC)	750,000	724,159	405,000
Take-Two Interactive Software, Inc., 1.75%, Due 12/1/16, (BB) (1)	500,000	445,077	477,812
TeleCommunication Systems, Inc., 4.50%, Due 11/1/14, (BB)	1,000,000	972,909	875,000
Tibco Software Inc., 2.25%, Due 5/1/32, (A) (1)	500,000	484,573	486,562
		6,815,805	6,774,375
Textiles, Apparel & Luxury Goods - 0.9%			
Iconix Brand Group, Inc., 2.50%, Due 6/1/16, (A) (1)	1,000,000	973,540	1,000,625
Trading Companies & Distributors - 2.4%			
Kaman Corp., 3.25%, Due 11/15/17, (AA)	500,000	523,329	636,562
Titan International, Inc., 5.625%, Due 1/15/17, (B)	375,000	384,748	868,828
Titan Machinery Inc., 3.75%, Due 5/1/19, (B) (1)	1,000,000	979,202	925,625
		1,887,279	2,431,015
Wireless Telecommunications Services - 1.5%			
SBA Communications Corp., 4.00%, Due 10/1/14, (NR)	500,000	609,360	1,120,938
SBA Communications Corp., 1.875%, Due 5/1/13, (NR)	250,000	255,493	403,594
		864,853	1,524,532

TOTAL CONVERTIBLE BONDS AND NOTES			
		61,367,131	66,225,512
CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK - 13.9%			
	Shares		
Commercial Banks - 4.7%			
Fifth Third Bancorp, 8.50%, (BBB)	9,750	1,370,200	1,328,242
Huntington Bancshares, Inc., 8.50%, (BBB)	800	992,000	990,000
Wells Fargo & Co., 7.50%, (AA)	2,000	1,262,262	2,500,000
		3,624,462	4,818,242
Diversified Financial Services - 1.7%			
Bank of America Corp., 7.25%, (BBB)	1,600	1,390,555	1,783,568
Food Products - 0.7%			
Bunge Ltd., 4.875%, (BB)	7,500	669,375	750,076
Machinery - 1.2%			
Stanley Black & Decker, Inc., 4.75%, (BBB)	10,000	1,060,250	1,210,700
Media - 1.0%			
Interpublic Group of Companies, Inc., 5.25%, (BBB)	1,000	1,019,311	1,000,250
Oil Gas & Consumable Fuels - 1.9%			
Chesapeake Energy Corp., 5.75%, (BB)	2,050	1,779,587	1,952,625
Whiting Petroleum Corp., 6.25%, (B)	131	13,075	25,701
		1,792,662	1,978,326
Real Estate Investment Trusts - 0.6%			
Health Care REIT, Inc., 6.50%, (BBB)	10,000	500,000	563,000
Speciality Retail - 0.9%			
Amerivon Holdings LLC, 4.00%, (NR) (1,3,4)	610,778	1,500,000	910,059
Amerivon Holdings LLC, common equity units, (NR) (1,3,4)	272,728	0	32,727
		1,500,000	942,786
Thriffs & Mortgage Finance - 1.2%			
New York Community Capital Trust V, 6.00%, (BB)	24,000	995,213	1,192,800
TOTAL CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK		12,551,828	14,239,748

See accompanying notes to financial statements

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
S

Portfolio of Investments October 31, 2012 (continued)

	Shares	Identified Cost	Value (Note 1)
MANDATORY CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES - 12.7% (5)			
Aerospace & Defense - 1.9%			
United Technologies Corp., 7.50%, Due 8/1/22, (AA)	35,000	\$ 1,862,019	\$ 1,903,300
Automobiles - 1.6%			
General Motors Co., 4.75%, Due 12/1/13, (NR)	40,000	2,063,356	1,624,800
Diversified Financial Services - 0.7%			
Citigroup Inc., 7.50%, Due 12/15/12, (BBB)	7,000	903,516	715,400
Electric Utilities - 2.7%			
NextEra Energy, Inc., 7.00%, Due 9/1/13, (NR)	20,000	1,002,500	1,084,000
NextEra Energy, Inc., 5.599%, Due 6/1/17, (NR)	7,500	356,250	382,500
PPL Corp., 8.75%, Due 5/1/19, (NR)	25,000	1,347,450	1,354,250
		2,706,200	2,820,750
Insurance - 1.4%			
MetLife, Inc., 5.00%, Due 10/8/14, (A)	30,000	1,468,203	1,394,700
IT Services - 0.5%			
Unisys Corp., 6.25%, Due 3/1/14, (B)	10,000	783,479	533,900
Metals & Mining - 0.2%			
AngloGold Ashanti Ltd., 6.00%, Due 9/15/13, (NR)	5,900	298,465	238,537
Oil Gas & Consumable Fuels - 1.4%			
Apache Corp., 6.00%, Due 8/1/13, (A)	30,000	1,648,296	1,399,800
Road & Rail - 1.7%			
Genesee & Wyoming, Inc., 5.00%, Due 10/1/15, (NR)	10,000	1,048,515	1,092,400
2010 Swift Mandatory Common Exchange Security Trust, 6.00%, Due 12/31/13, (NR)	70,000	796,350	692,216
		1,844,865	1,784,616

Semiconductors & Semiconductor Equipment - 0.6%			
UBS AG Exchangeable Note (GTAT), 6.75%, Due 9/15/13, (A)	40,000	945,823	618,752
TOTAL MANDATORY CONVERTIBLE SECURITIES (5)			
		14,524,222	13,034,555
PREFERRED STOCK - 0.4%			
Metals & Mining - 0.4%			
Vale/P, 1.91%, (NR)	20,145	542,536	358,380
COMMON STOCK - 0.5%			
Insurance - 0.5%			
MetLife, Inc.	14,116	532,247	500,977
Total Convertible Bonds and Notes - 64.7%			
		\$ 61,367,131	\$ 66,225,512
Total Convertible Preferred Stock - 13.9%			
		12,551,828	14,239,748
Total Mandatory Convertible Securities - 12.7%			
		14,524,222	13,034,555
Total Preferred Stock - 0.4%			
		542,536	358,380
Total Common Stock - 0.5%			
		532,247	500,977
Total Investments - 92.2%			
		89,517,964	94,359,172
Other Assets and Liabilities, Net - 7.8%			
			7,957,060
Total Net Assets - 100.0%			
			\$ 102,316,232

See accompanying notes to financial statements

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

Portfolio of Investments October 31, 2012 (continued)

(1) Security not registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) (e.g., the security was purchased in a Rule 144A or a Regulation D transaction). The security may be resold only pursuant to an exemption from registration under the Securities Act, typically to qualified institutional buyers. The Fund generally has no rights to demand registration of such securities. The aggregate market value of these unregistered securities at October 31, 2012 was \$11,768,226, which represented 11.5% of the Fund’s net assets.

(2) Non-income producing security.

(3) Investment is valued at fair value as determined in good faith pursuant to procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. It is possible that the estimated value may differ significantly from the amount that might ultimately be realized in the near term, and the difference could be material. The fair value of these securities amounted to \$942,786 at October 31, 2012, which represented 0.9% of the Fund’s net assets.

(4) Restricted securities include securities that have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and securities that are subject to restrictions on resale. The Fund may invest in restricted securities that are consistent with the Fund’s investment objective and investment strategies. In some cases, the issuer of restricted securities has agreed to register such securities for resale, at the issuer’s expense either upon demand by the Fund or in connection with another registered offering of the securities. Investments in restricted securities are valued at fair value as determined in good faith in accordance with procedures adopted by the Board of Trustees. It is possible that the estimated value may differ significantly from the amount that might ultimately be realized in the near term, and the difference could be material. As of October 31, 2012, the Fund was invested in the following restricted securities:

Security	Acquisition Date	Shares	Cost	Price per Share	Value	% Net Assets	
Amerivon Holdings LLC series A cv. pfd.	April 1, 2010	610,778	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1.328	\$ 910,059	0.9	%
Amerivon Holdings LLC common equity units	April 1, 2010	272,728	0	0.010	32,727	0.0	%

(5) Mandatory Convertible Securities are required to be converted on the dates listed; they generally may be converted prior to these dates at the option of the holder. See Note 1(i).

Portfolio Ratings: Summary of Portfolio Ratings *

Where a security is rated by Standard & Poor’s (S&P), such rating appears in parentheses next to such security (but without any applicable + or - that might % of Portfolio

apply).	AAA	2
Where a security is rated by S&P and at least one other rating agency and the Fund believes the ratings to be functionally equivalent to one another, the S&P rating appears in parentheses next to such security (but without any applicable + or - that might apply).	AA	0
Where a security is rated by S&P and at least one other rating agency and the Fund believes the ratings not to be functionally equivalent to one another, the Fund puts in parentheses next to such security the S&P rating which it believes approximates the average of all such ratings (but without any applicable + or - that might apply).	A	14
Where a security is not rated by S&P, but is rated by at least one other rating agency, the Fund puts in parentheses next to such security the S&P rating which it believes approximates the average of all such ratings (but without any applicable + or - that might apply). NR is used whenever a rating is unavailable.	BBB	21
	BB	19
	B	17
	CCC &	
	below	2
	Not Rated	25
	* Excludes equity securities and cash.	

See accompanying notes to financial statements

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	October 31, 2012
Assets:	
Investments at value (cost \$89,517,964) (Note 1)	\$ 94,359,172
Cash	4,838,977
Receivable for securities sold	4,943,370
Dividends and interest receivable	726,576
Other assets	29,000
Total assets	104,897,095
Liabilities:	
Payable for securities purchased	2,540,824
Accrued expenses	40,039
Total liabilities	2,580,863
Net Assets:	\$ 102,316,232
Net Assets consist of:	
Capital shares (unlimited shares of \$0.01 par value authorized) (Note 3)	\$ 53,419
Additional paid-in capital	110,735,082
Accumulated net investment income loss	(214,135)
Accumulated net realized loss from investment transactions	(13,099,342)
Unrealized appreciation on investments	4,841,208
Net Assets	\$ 102,316,232
Net asset value per share (\$102,316,232 ÷ 5,341,852 outstanding shares)	\$ 19.15

Statement of Operations

For the Year Ended October 31, 2012

Investment Income (Note 1):

Interest	\$ 1,945,116
Dividends	1,762,463
Total Income	3,707,579
Expenses (Note 2):	
Management fee	746,653
Custodian	12,436
Transfer agent	26,941
Legal fees	62,492
Audit fees	40,200
Trustees' fees	82,000
Administrative services fees	50,453
Reports to shareholders	29,807
Insurance	26,095
Other	43,434
Total Expenses	1,120,511
Net Investment Income	2,587,068
Realized and Unrealized Gain on Investments:	
Net realized loss from investment transactions	(2,256,128)
Net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments	6,293,583

Net gain on investments	4,037,455
Net Increase in Net Assets Resulting from Operations	\$ 6,624,523

See accompanying notes to financial statements

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER S

Statements of Changes in Net Assets

For the Years Ended October 31, 2012 and 2011

	2012	2011
Change in net assets from operations:		
Net investment income	\$ 2,587,068	\$ 2,560,847
Net realized gain (loss) from investment transactions	(2,256,128)	3,200,560
Net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments .	6,293,583	(4,551,712)
Net change in net assets resulting from operations	6,624,523	1,209,695
Distributions to shareholders from:		
Net investment income	(2,920,318)	(3,173,778)
Net realized gain on investments	—	—
Total distributions	(2,920,318)	(3,173,778)
Capital share transactions (Note 3)	403,568	651,230
Change in net assets	4,107,773	(1,312,853)
Net assets at beginning of year	98,208,459	99,521,312
Net assets at end of year	\$ 102,316,232	\$ 98,208,459
Undistributed net investment income (loss) at end of year	\$ (214,135)	\$ 177,499

Financial Highlights Selected data for a share of beneficial interest outstanding:

	Year Ended October 31,				
	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
Operating Performance:					
Net asset value, beginning of year	\$ 18.48	\$ 18.85	\$ 16.57	\$ 13.37	\$ 24.35
Net investment income	0.48	0.48	0.67	0.72	0.78
Net realized and unrealized gain (loss)	0.75	(0.25)	2.32	3.14	(9.12)
Total from investment operations	1.23	0.23	2.99	3.86	(8.34)
Less Distributions:					
Dividends from net investment income	(0.55)	(0.60)	(0.71)	(0.66)	(0.80)
Distributions from realized gains.	—	—	—	—	(2.01)

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Total distributions	(0.55)	(0.60)	(0.71)	(0.66)	(2.81)
Capital Share Transactions:					
Dilutive effect of dividend reinvestment	(0.01)	—	—	—	—
Anti-dilutive effect of tender offer.	—	—	—	—	0.17
Net asset value, end of year	\$ 19.15	\$ 18.48	\$ 18.85	\$ 16.57	\$ 13.37
Market value, end of year	\$ 16.45	\$ 15.85	\$ 16.43	\$ 14.23	\$ 11.30
Total Return (a):					
Market value (%)	7.36	0.01	20.9	33.1	(38.7)
Net asset value (%)	7.20	1.63	19.1	31.0	(37.5)
Ratios/Supplemental Data:					
Net assets, end of year (in thousands)	\$ 102,316	\$ 98,208	\$ 99,563	\$ 86,734	\$ 69,404
Ratio of expenses to average net assets (%)	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.2
Ratio of net investment income to					
average net assets (%)	2.6	2.5	3.3	5.1	3.7
Portfolio turnover rate (%)	44	43	65	79	55

(a) Market value total return is calculated assuming a purchase of Fund shares on the opening of the first business day and a sale on the closing of the last business day of each period reported. Dividends and distributions are assumed for the purposes of this calculation to be reinvested at prices obtained under the Fund's Automatic Dividend Investment and Cash Payment Plan. Net asset value total return is calculated on the same basis, except that the Fund's net asset value is used on the purchase and sale dates instead of market value.

See accompanying notes to financial statements

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
S

Notes to Financial Statements

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Organization - Bancroft Fund Ltd. (the "Fund"), is registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, as a diversified, closed-end management investment company.

(b) Indemnification - Under the Fund's organizational documents, each trustee, officer or other agent of the Fund (including the Fund's investment adviser) is indemnified against certain liabilities that may arise out of performance of their duties to the Fund. Additionally, in the normal course of business, the Fund enters into contracts that contain a variety of indemnification clauses. The Fund's maximum exposure under these arrangements is unknown, as this would involve future claims that may be made against the Fund that have not yet occurred. The risk of material loss as a result of such indemnification is considered remote.

(c) Security Valuation - Investments in securities traded on a national securities exchange are valued at market using the last reported sales price, supplied by an independent pricing service, as of the close of regular trading. Listed securities, for which no sales were reported, are valued at the mean between closing reported bid and asked prices as of the close of regular trading. Unlisted securities traded in the over-the-counter market are valued using an evaluated quote provided by the independent pricing service, or, if an evaluated quote is unavailable, such securities are valued using prices received from dealers, provided that if the dealer supplies both bid and asked prices, the price to be used is the mean of the bid and asked prices. The independent pricing service derives an evaluated quote by obtaining dealer quotes, analyzing the listed markets, reviewing trade execution data and employing sensitivity analysis. Evaluated quotes may also reflect appropriate factors such as individual characteristics of the issue, communications with broker-dealers, and other market data. Securities for which quotations are not readily available, restricted securities and other assets are valued at fair value as determined in good faith pursuant to procedures approved by the Board of Trustees. Short-term debt securities with original maturities of 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost.

The Fund has adopted authoritative fair valuation accounting standards which establish an authoritative definition of fair value and set out a hierarchy for measuring fair value. These standards require additional disclosures about the various inputs and valuation techniques used to develop the measurements of fair value and a discussion in changes in valuation techniques and related inputs during the period. These inputs are summarized in the three broad levels listed below:

Level 1 - Quoted unadjusted prices for identical instruments in active markets.

Level 2 - Quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets; quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active; and model-driven valuation in which all significant inputs and significant value drivers are observable in active markets. Level 2 inputs are those in markets for which there are few transactions, the prices are not current, little public information exists or instances where prices vary substantially over time or among brokered market makers, and those received from an independent pricing service.

Level 3 - Model derived valuations in which one or more significant inputs or significant value drivers are unobservable. Unobservable inputs are those inputs that reflect the Fund's own assumptions that market participants would use to price an asset or liability based on the best available information.

The availability of observable inputs can vary from security to security and is affected by a wide variety of factors, including, for example, the type of security, whether the security is new and not yet established in the marketplace, the

liquidity of the markets, and other characteristics particular to the security. To the extent that valuation is based on models or inputs that are less observable or unobservable in the market, the determination of fair value requires more judgment. Accordingly, the degree of judgment exercised in determining fair value is greatest for instruments categorized in Level 3.

The net change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation) from Level 3 investments held as of October 31, 2012 was \$37,345 and is included in net unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of investments on the Statement of Operations. Transfers into, or out of, Level 3 are valued utilizing values as of the end of the period. Transfers into Level 3 were due to a decline in market activity (e.g., frequency of trades), which resulted in a lack of available market inputs to determine price.

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
S

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

The following is a summary of the inputs used to value the net assets of Bancroft Fund Ltd. as of October 31, 2012:

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments in Securities:				
Common Stock	\$ 500,977	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 500,977
Convertible Bonds and Notes	—	66,225,512	—	66,225,512
Convertible Preferred Stock	—	13,296,962	942,786	14,239,748
Mandatory Convertible Securities	—	13,034,555	—	13,034,555
Preferred Stock	—	358,380	—	358,380
Total Investments	\$ 500,977	\$ 92,915,409	\$ 942,786	\$ 94,359,172

Refer to the Fund's Portfolio of Investments for a detailed breakdown of Common Stock, Convertible Preferred Stock, Mandatory Convertible Securities and Preferred Stock. Transfers between levels are recognized at October 31, 2012, the end of the reporting period. The Fund recognized no transfers to or from Level 1 to Level 2.

The following is a reconciliation of assets for which Level 3 inputs were used in determining value:

	Convertible Bonds and Notes	Convertible Preferred Stock	Total
Beginning balance	\$ 891,000	\$ 777,848	\$ 1,668,848
Proceeds from sales	(886,642)	—	(886,642)
Gain/loss	123,235	—	123,235
Change in unrealized appreciation (depreciation)	(127,593)	164,938	37,345
Net transfers in/out of Level 3	—	—	—
Ending balance	\$ —	\$ 942,786	\$ 942,786

In May 2011, the Financial Accounting Standards Board issued Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") No. 2011-04 "Amendments to Achieve Common Fair Value Measurement and Disclosure Requirements in U.S. GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS)". ASU 2011-04 includes common requirements for measurement of and disclosure about fair value between U.S. GAAP and IFRS. ASU 2011-04 will require reporting entities to disclose the following information for fair value measurements categorized within Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy: quantitative information about the unobservable inputs used in the fair value measurement, the valuation processes used by the reporting entity, and a narrative description of the sensitivity of the fair value measurement to changes in observable inputs and the interrelationships between those unobservable inputs. In addition, ASU 2011-04 will require

reporting to entities to make disclosures about amounts and reasons for all transfers in an out of Level 1 and Level 2 fair value measurements. The new and revised disclosures are effective for interim and annual reporting periods beginning after December 15, 2011. At this time, management is evaluating the implications of ASU 2011-04 and its impact on the financial statements.

In December 2011, FASB issued ASU No. 2011-11 related to disclosures about offsetting assets and liabilities. The amendments in this ASU require an entity to disclose information about offsetting and related arrangements to enable users of its financial statements to understand the effect of those arrangements on its financial position. The ASU is effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after January 1, 2013, and interim periods within those annual periods. The guidance requires retrospective application for all comparative periods presented. The Fund is currently evaluating the impact ASU 2011-11 will have on the financial statement disclosures.

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(d) Federal Income Taxes - The Fund's policy is to distribute substantially all of its taxable income within the prescribed time and to otherwise comply with the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code applicable to regulated investment companies. Therefore, no provision for federal income or excise taxes is believed necessary.

The Fund recognizes the tax benefits of uncertain tax positions only where the position is "more-likely-than-not" to be sustained assuming examination by taxing authorities. Management of the Fund has analyzed the Fund's tax positions, and has concluded that no liability for unrecognized tax benefits should be recorded related to uncertain tax positions taken on returns filed for open tax years (2009-2011), or expected to be taken in the Fund's 2012 tax returns. The major tax authority for the Fund is the Internal Revenue Service. The Fund is not aware of any tax positions for which it is reasonably likely that the total amounts of unrecognized tax benefits will significantly change in the next twelve months.

(e) Securities Transactions and Related Investment Income - Securities transactions are accounted for on the trade date (the date the order to buy or sell is executed) with gain or loss on the sale of securities being determined based upon identified cost. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date and interest income is recorded on the accrual basis, including accretion of discounts and amortization of non-equity premium. For certain securities, known as "contingent payment debt instruments," Federal tax regulations require the Fund to record non-cash, "contingent" interest income in addition to interest income actually received. Contingent interest income amounted to approximately twelve cents per share for the twelve months ended October 31, 2012.

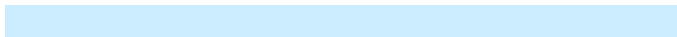
(f) Distributions to Shareholders - Distributions to shareholders from net investment income are recorded by the Fund on the ex-dividend date. Distributions from capital gains, if any, are recorded on the ex-dividend date and paid annually.

The amount and character of income and capital gains to be distributed are determined in accordance with income tax regulations, which may differ from generally accepted accounting principles. The tax character of distributions paid during the fiscal years ended October 31, 2012 and 2011 were as follows:

	2012	2011
Ordinary income	\$ 2,902,318	\$ 3,173,778
Net realized gain on investments	—	—
	\$ 2,902,318	\$ 3,173,778

At October 31, 2012, the components of distributable earnings and federal tax cost were as follows:

Unrealized appreciation	\$9,484,190
Unrealized depreciation	(5,693,367)
Net unrealized appreciation	3,790,823
Undistributed ordinary income	1,207,613
Capital loss carryforward	(13,470,705)
Other losses	—
Total distributable net earnings	(8,472,269)


Cost for federal income tax purposes \$90,568,349

The differences between book-basis and tax-basis unrealized appreciation/depreciation is attributable to differing methods of recognizing interest and ordinary income on bonds for tax purposes.

To the extent the Fund's net realized capital gains, if any, can be offset by capital loss carryforwards, it is the policy of the Fund not to distribute such gains. As determined at October 31, 2012, the Fund had unused capital loss carryforwards of \$11,039,355 which expire in 2017, and \$778,411 short-term losses and \$1,652,939 long-term losses with no expiration date, available for federal income tax purposes to offset net realized capital gains.

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

Notes to Financial Statements (continued)

NOTE 1 - ORGANIZATION AND SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(g) Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act - On December 22, 2010, the Regulated Investment Company Modernization Act of 2010 (the Modernization Act) was signed into law. The Modernization Act modernizes several of the federal income and excise tax provisions related to regulated investment companies ("RICs").

New capital losses may now be carried forward indefinitely, and retain the character of the original loss. Under pre-enactment law, capital losses could be carried forward for eight years, and carried forward as short-term capital losses, irrespective of the character of the original loss. As a transition rule, the Act requires that post-enactment net capital losses be used before pre-enactment net capital losses.

(h) Use of Estimates - The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(i) Market Risk - It is the Fund's policy to invest at least 65% of its assets in convertible securities. Although convertible securities do derive part of their value from that of the securities into which they are convertible, they are not considered derivative financial instruments. However, the Fund's mandatory convertible securities include features which render them more sensitive to price changes of their underlying securities. Thus they expose the Fund to greater downside risk than traditional convertible securities, but generally less than that of the underlying common stock. The market value of those securities was \$13,034,555 at October 31, 2012, representing 12.7% of net assets.

(j) Reclassification of Capital Accounts - Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States require that certain components of net assets relating to permanent differences be reclassified between financial and tax reporting. These reclassifications have no effect on net assets or net asset value per share. At October 31, 2012 the Fund increased net investment income loss by \$58,384 and decreased accumulated net realized loss on investments by \$58,384.

NOTE 2 - MANAGEMENT FEE AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS WITH AFFILIATES

The Fund has entered into an investment advisory agreement with Dinsmore Capital Management Co. ("Dinsmore Capital"). Pursuant to the investment advisory agreement, Dinsmore Capital provides the Fund with investment advice, office space and facilities. Under the terms of the investment advisory agreement, the Fund pays Dinsmore Capital on the last day of each month an advisory fee for such month computed at an annual rate of 0.75% of the first \$100,000,000 and 0.50% of the excess over \$100,000,000 of the Fund's net asset value in such month.

The Fund, pursuant to an administrative services agreement with Dinsmore Capital, has agreed to pay Dinsmore Capital for certain accounting and other administrative services provided to the Fund. Under the administrative services agreement, the Fund pays Dinsmore Capital on the last day of each month a fee for such month computed at an annual rate of 0.05% of the Fund's net asset value in such month.

Certain officers and trustees of the Fund are officers and directors of Dinsmore Capital.

NOTE 3 - PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

At October 31, 2012, there were 5,341,852 shares of beneficial interest outstanding, with a par value of \$0.01 per share. During the twelve months ended October 31, 2012, 26,342 shares were issued in connection with reinvestment of dividends from net investment income, resulting in an increase in paid-in capital of \$403,568. Purchases and sales of investments, exclusive of corporate short-term notes, aggregated \$41,112,376 and \$45,026,880, respectively, for the twelve months ended October 31, 2012.

NOTE 4 - SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

In preparing the financial statements as of October 31, 2012, management considered the impact of subsequent events for potential recognition or disclosure in these financial statements.

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
S

Report of Independent Registered
Public Accounting Firm

To the Shareholders and Board of Trustees of
Bancroft Fund Ltd.

We have audited the accompanying statement of assets and liabilities, including the portfolio of investments of Bancroft Fund Ltd. (the "Fund") as of October 31, 2012, and the related statement of operations for the year then ended, the statements of changes in net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended, and the financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended. These financial statements and financial highlights are the responsibility of the Fund'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. The Fund is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform an audit of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also 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 October 31, 2012, 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 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 Bancroft Fund Ltd. as of October 31, 2012, the results of its operations for the year then ended, the changes in its net assets for each of the two years in the period then ended and its financial highlights for each of the five years in the period then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

TAIT, WELLER & BAKER LLP

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
December 20, 2012

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

Miscellaneous Notes (unaudited)

Automatic Dividend Investment and Cash Payment Plan

The Fund has an Automatic Dividend Investment and Cash Payment Plan (the “Plan”). Any shareholder may elect to join the Plan by sending an application to American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, P.O. Box 922, Wall Street Station, New York, NY 10269-0560 (the “Plan Agent”). You may also obtain information about the Plan, as well as the Plan application, by calling the Plan Agent toll free at (877) 208-9514. If your shares are held by a broker or other nominee, you should instruct the nominee to join the Plan on your behalf. Some brokers may require that your shares be taken out of the broker’s “street name” and re-registered in your own name. Shareholders should also contact their broker to determine whether shares acquired through participation in the Plan can be transferred to another broker and thereafter, whether the shareholder can continue to participate in the Plan.

Under the Plan, all dividends and distributions are automatically invested in additional Fund shares. Depending on the circumstances, shares may either be issued by the Fund or acquired through open market purchases at the current market price or net asset value, whichever is lower (but not less than 95% of market price). For shareholder distributions made with respect to income earned during each of the first three fiscal quarters, when the market price of a share of Fund beneficial shares is lower than such share’s net asset value, the Plan Agent will combine the distributions of all Plan participants and purchase shares in the open market, thereby taking advantage of the lower commissions on larger purchases. There is no other charge for this service. For shareholder distributions made with respect to capital gains realized during the fiscal year and income earned during the fourth fiscal quarter, when the market price of a share of Fund shares is lower than such share’s net asset value, the Fund will issue shares at the market price.

All dividends and distributions made by the Fund (including capital gain dividends and dividends designated as qualified dividend income, which are eligible for taxation at lower rates) remain taxable to Plan participants, regardless of whether such dividends and distributions are reinvested in additional shares of the Fund through open market purchases or through the issuance of new shares. Plan participants will be treated as receiving the cash used to purchase shares on the open market and, in the case of any dividend or distribution made in the form of newly issued shares, will be treated as receiving an amount equal to the fair market value of such shares as of the reinvestment date. Accordingly, a shareholder may incur a tax liability even though such shareholder has not received a cash distribution with which to pay the tax.

Plan participants may also voluntarily send cash payments of \$100 to \$10,000 per month to the Plan Agent, to be combined with other Plan monies, for purchase of additional Fund shares in the open market. You pay only a bank service charge of \$1.25 per transaction, plus your proportionate share of the brokerage commission. All shares and fractional shares purchased will be held by the Plan Agent in your dividend reinvestment account. You may deposit with the Plan Agent any Fund share certificates you hold, for a one-time fee of \$7.50.

At any time, a Plan participant may instruct the Plan Agent to liquidate all or any portion of such Plan participant’s account. To do so, a Plan participant must deliver written notice to the Plan Agent prior to the record date of any dividend or distribution requesting either liquidation or a share certificate. The Plan Agent will combine all liquidation requests it receives from Plan participants on a particular day and will then sell shares of the Fund that are subject to liquidation requests in the open market. The amount of proceeds a Plan participant will receive shall be determined by the average sales price per share, after deducting brokerage commissions, of all shares sold by the Plan Agent for all Plan participants who have given the Plan Agent liquidation requests.

The Plan Agent or the Fund may terminate the Plan for any reason at any time by sending written notice addressed to the Plan participant's address as shown on the Plan Agent's records. Following the date of termination, the Plan Agent shall send the Plan participant either the proceeds of liquidation, or a share certificate or certificates for the full shares held by the Plan Agent in the Plan participant's account. Additionally, a check will be sent for the value of any fractional interest in the Plan participant's account based on the market price of the Fund's shares on that date.

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDERS

Miscellaneous Notes (unaudited)(continued)

Notice of Privacy Policy

The Fund has adopted a privacy policy in order to protect the confidentiality of nonpublic personal information that we have about you. We receive personal information, such as your name, address and account balances, when transactions occur in Fund shares registered in your name.

We may disclose this information to companies that perform services for the Fund, such as the Fund's transfer agent or proxy solicitors. These companies may only use this information in connection with the services they provide to the Fund, and not for any other purpose. We will not otherwise disclose any nonpublic personal information about our shareholders or former shareholders to anyone else, except as required by law.

Access to nonpublic information about you is restricted to our employees and service providers who need that information in order to provide services to you. We maintain physical, electronic and procedural safeguards that comply with federal standards to guard your nonpublic personal information.

For More Information About Portfolio Holdings

In addition to the semi-annual and annual reports that Bancroft delivers to shareholders and makes available through the Fund's public website, the Fund files a complete schedule of portfolio holdings with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for the Fund's first and third fiscal quarters on Form N-Q. Bancroft does not deliver the schedule of portfolio holdings for the first and third fiscal quarters to shareholders, however, the schedules are available without charge, upon request, by calling (800) 914-1177 or at the Fund's public website, www.bancroftfund.com. You may obtain the Form N-Q filings by accessing the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. You may also review and copy them at the SEC's Public Reference Room in Washington, DC. Information on the operation of the SEC's Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at (800) SEC-0330.

Proxy Voting Policies and Procedures / Proxy Voting Record

The Fund's policies and procedures with respect to the voting of proxies relating to the Fund's portfolio securities is available without charge, upon request, by calling (800) 914-1177, or at the Fund's website at www.bancroftfund.com. This information is also available on the SEC's website at www.sec.gov. In addition, information on how the Fund voted such proxies relating to portfolio securities during the most recent twelve-month period ended June 30, is available without charge at the above sources.

Declared Distribution

A distribution of \$0.195 per share, derived from net investment income, was declared on November 19, 2012, payable December 28, 2012 to shareholders of record at the close of business November 30, 2012.

The Fund is a member of the Closed-End Fund Association (CEFA), a non-profit national trade association (www.cefa.com). Thomas H. Dinsmore, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Fund, is on its executive board.

Pursuant to Section 23 of the Investment Company Act of 1940, notice is hereby given that the Fund may in the future purchase beneficial shares of the Fund from time to time, at such times, and in such amounts, as may be deemed advantageous to the Fund. Nothing herein shall be considered a commitment to purchase such shares.

BANCROFT FUND LTD. 2012 ANNUAL REPORT TO SHAREHOLDER
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Trustees

Each trustee is also a trustee of Ellsworth Fund Ltd. (Ellsworth) (a closed-end management investment company). Dinsmore Capital Management Co. (Dinsmore Capital) is the Fund's investment adviser and is also the investment adviser to Ellsworth. Because of this connection, the Fund and Ellsworth make up a Fund Complex. Therefore, each trustee oversees two investment companies in the Fund Complex.

Personal
Information

Principal Occupation(s) During Past Five Years; Other
Directorship(s)

INDEPENDENT
TRUSTEES

Kinchen C. Bizzell, CFA
65 Madison Avenue, Suite
550
Morristown, NJ 07960
Term expires 2015
Trustee since 2008 - Born
1954

Senior Counselor with Burson-Marsteller (a global
public relations and communications firm); Trustee of
Ellsworth.