

TRI-CONTINENTAL CORP
Form N-30B-2
May 19, 2005

**Management Discussion
and
First Quarter Report 2005**

Tri- Continental Corporation

an investment you can live with

Tri-Continental Corporation

This Management Discussion is intended only for the information of Stockholders who have received the current prospectus for Tri-Continental Corporation. You should consider the investment objectives, risks, charges, and expenses of Tri-Continental before purchasing shares. The prospectus, which contains information about these factors and other information, should be read carefully before purchasing shares. The prospectus may be obtained by calling Stockholder Services at 800-TRI-1092.

TRI-CONTINENTAL MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION

Interview with Your Portfolio Managers, Jack Cunningham and Michael McGarry

What economic and market conditions affected Tri-Continental's portfolio during the first quarter of 2005?

The first quarter of 2005 was difficult for investors and most major indices posted negative returns. Less-defensive areas of the market, such as technology and telecommunications, suffered the most, while the energy sector, which benefited from higher oil and gas prices, was by far the best performer. Other defensive sectors within the S&P 500, such as utilities, consumer staples, and materials, also posted positive results.

The driving forces behind this generally negative market environment were sharply higher energy prices and rising interest rates. During the first quarter, oil prices soared to over \$55 a barrel. At the same time, the US Federal Reserve Board continued to make "measured pace" increases in the federal funds rate, raising this rate twice by 25 basis points during the three-month period. Until this past quarter, longer-term rates had remained stable in spite of the Fed's moves. However, at the end of the first quarter, longer-term interest rates began to rise as well. The 10-year US Treasury bill began the year at 4.24% and ended the quarter 26 basis points higher, at 4.50% .

What can you tell us about Tri-Continental's portfolio strategy and investment results during the first quarter?

At the end of the first quarter, Tri-Continental's largest sector weighting was information technology, and Tri-Continental was overweighted in this area relative to the S&P 500 Index. Technology stocks delivered generally poor results for both Tri-Continental and the S&P 500, and Tri-Continental's heavy weighting in this sector negatively impacted both absolute and relative returns. While technology stock prices fell during the first quarter, we continue to believe that technology stock price valuations are attractive, and that fundamentals within the technology industry warrant a continued overweighting. Technology companies are showing strong balance sheets and many companies are holding large amounts of cash with very little debt. Some of these companies are putting their cash to work in stockholder-friendly ways, such as by instituting stock repurchase programs and by increasing dividends.

Tri-Continental's second-largest sector weighting at the end of the quarter was financials. This sector was negatively impacted by rising interest rates, and while Tri-Continental was underweighted in this area, the financial stocks in the portfolio underperformed those in the S&P 500. The financial sector thus had a negative impact on both absolute and relative returns for the quarter.

Not part of first quarter report

Tri-Continental Corporation

We did not expect the sharp upward movement of energy commodity prices in the first quarter, which we believe was driven primarily by market speculation and momentum, and not by supply fundamentals. As a consequence, Tri-Continental was underweighted in the energy sector relative to the S&P 500. While the outperformance of the energy sector did contribute positively to performance on an absolute basis, the area negatively impacted returns relative to the S&P 500 due to Tri-Continental's underweighting and the fact that the energy stocks in the portfolio underperformed the S&P 500's energy sector as a whole.

Consumer discretionary stocks delivered generally negative returns during the quarter. The sector was impacted by rising energy costs and rising interest rates, both of which could potentially curb consumer spending. Tri-Continental benefited from an underweighting in the group and from favorable stock selection relative to the S&P 500.

During the first quarter, Tri-Continental purchased put options and wrote call options on three energy stocks held by the portfolio. Put options provide the holder (in this case, Tri-Continental) with the right to sell securities at a specified price. Tri-Continental purchased these for downside protection in the event of falling energy prices. Call options obligate the seller (in this case, Tri-Continental) to sell stocks at a specified price. Tri-Continental partially offset the cost of the put options with the income generated by writing the call options. While this limited Tri-Continental's potential profit (because the portfolio was obligated to sell the stocks at certain price points), it also provided Tri-Continental with downside protection (because the portfolio could sell the stocks at predetermined prices). This two-part strategy (often referred to as a "collar") enabled the portfolio to maintain exposure to these stocks within a certain price band, while continuing to collect dividends.

What is your outlook?

While we believe the recent surge in energy prices is in part the result of market speculation, we are concerned that high oil prices could reduce the spending power of consumers and businesses, placing a drag on the economy. Higher interest rates also have the potential to slow spending. However, we believe that because inflation remains in check, it will not be necessary for the Federal Reserve Board to increase rates dramatically in the near term. On the plus side, corporate balance sheets and profits are strong, and inflation and interest rates remain historically low. We thus believe the market will be able to deliver moderate gains over the remainder of 2005.

The views and opinions expressed are those of the Portfolio Manager(s), are provided for general information only, and do not constitute specific tax, legal, or investment advice to, or recommendations for, any person. There can be no guarantee as to the accuracy of market forecasts. Opinions, estimates, and forecasts may be changed without notice. Tri-Continental is actively managed and its holdings are subject to change. For a complete listing of portfolio holdings, please consult Tri-Continental's first quarter report.

Not part of first quarter report

Tri-Continental Corporation

FIRST QUARTER REPORT 2005

April 29, 2005

To the Stockholders:

Your first quarter Stockholder report for Tri-Continental Corporation follows this letter. This report contains Tri-Continental's investment results and portfolio of investments.

For the three months ended March 31, 2005, the Corporation posted a total return of \square 2.35% based on market price and \square 3.25% based on net asset value. During the same time period, the S&P 500 returned \square 2.15% and the Lipper Closed-End Growth & Income Funds Average returned \square 1.62% .

Thank you for your continued support of Tri-Continental Corporation. We look forward to serving your investment needs for many years to come.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

William C. Morris
Chairman

Brian T. Zino
President

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Tri-Continental Corporation

Investment Results Per Common Share

TOTAL RETURNS

For Periods Ended March 31, 2005

	Average Annual			
	Three Months*	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years
Market Price	(2.35)%	4.92%	(1.96)%	8.26%
Net Asset Value	(3.25)	6.42	(3.53)	8.10
Lipper Closed-End Growth & Income Funds Average**	(1.62)	8.63	1.99	9.33
S&P 500**	(2.15)	6.69	(3.16)	10.79

PRICE PER SHARE

	March 31, 2005	December 31, 2004
Market Price		
Net Asset Value	\$17.80 21.10	\$18.28 21.87

DIVIDEND, CAPITAL GAINS AND YIELD INFORMATION

For the Three Months Ended March 31, 2005

Dividends Paid	Capital Gains		SEC 30-Day Yield ^Ø
	Realized	Unrealized	
\$0.05	\$0.41	\$1.16	\$1.25 %

Performance data quoted represents past performance and does not guarantee future investment results. The rates of return will vary and the principal value of an investment will fluctuate. Shares, if sold, may be worth more or less than their original cost. Current performance may be lower or higher than the performance data quoted. Total returns of the Corporation as of the most recent month-end will be made available at www.seligman.com¹ by the seventh business day following that month-end. Returns reflect changes in market price or net asset value, as applicable, and assume reinvestment of distributions. Performance data quoted does not reflect the deduction of taxes that investors may pay on distributions or the sale of shares.

* Returns for periods of less than one year are not annualized.

** The Lipper Closed-End Growth & Income Funds Average (the "Lipper Average") and the Standard & Poor's 500 Composite Stock Index (the "S&P 500") are unmanaged benchmarks that assume reinvestment of all distributions. The Lipper Average excludes the effect of taxes and any costs associated with the purchase of shares, and the S&P 500 excludes the effect of taxes, fees and sales charges. The Lipper Average measures the performance of closed-end mutual funds that combine a growth-of-earnings orientation and an income requirement for level and/or rising dividends. The S&P 500 measures the performance of 500 of the largest US companies based on market capitalizations. Investors cannot invest directly in an index or an average.

Ø Preferred Stockholders were paid dividends totaling \$0.625 per share.

Ø Information does not reflect the effect of capital loss carryforwards that are available to offset these and future capital gains.

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□ Represents the per share amount of net unrealized appreciation of portfolio securities as of March 31, 2005.

Ø Current yield, representing the annualized yield for the 30-day period ended March 31, 2005, has been computed in accordance with SEC regulations and will vary.

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The reference to Seligman's website is an inactive textual reference and information contained in or otherwise accessible through Seligman's website does not form a part of this report or the Corporation's prospectus.

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Tri-Continental Corporation

Largest Portfolio Changes

January 1, 2005 to March 31, 2005

Largest Purchases

Pharmion Corporation*
 Honeywell International Inc.*
 Comcast Corporation Class [A]*
 Intel Corporation
 Sprint (FON Group)*
 Novell, Inc.*
 Nokia Corp. (ADR)
 Medtronic, Inc.*
 Lucent Technologies, Inc.*
 Citizens Communications Company*

Largest Sales

Carnival Corporation**
 Dell Inc.
 Lear Corp.**
 Texas Instruments Incorporated**
 MBNA Corporation**
 Novartis (ADR)
 General Mills, Inc.**
 Verizon Communications Inc.
 Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing
 Company (ADR)**
 International Business
 Machines Corporation

Largest portfolio changes from the previous period to the current period are based on cost of purchases and proceeds from sales of securities, listed in descending order.

* Position added during the period.

** Position eliminated during the period.

10 Largest Equity Holdings

March 31, 2005

Security	Value	Percent of Net Assets
General Electric Company	\$93,714,531	3.9
Exxon Mobil Corporation	77,952,330	3.3
Citigroup Inc.	71,042,500	3.0
Microsoft Corporation	70,877,298	3.0
Pfizer Inc.	64,964,047	2.6
Altria Group, Inc.	57,751,140	2.4
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	51,303,620	2.1
Intel Corporation	46,169,393	1.9
Tyco International Ltd.	43,299,152	1.8
Cisco Systems, Inc.	40,432,005	1.7

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments (unaudited)

March 31, 2005

	Shares	Value
COMMON STOCKS		
AND WARRANTS 97.6%		
AEROSPACE AND		
DEFENSE 1.7%		
General Dynamics Corporation	135,700	\$ 14,526,685
Honeywell International Inc.	688,900	25,633,969
		<u>40,160,654</u>
AIR FREIGHT		
AND LOGISTICS 0.5%		
FedEx Corp.	115,810	10,880,349
BEVERAGES 2.6%		
Coca-Cola Company (The)	793,300	33,056,811
PepsiCo, Inc.	553,900	29,373,317
		<u>62,430,128</u>
BIOTECHNOLOGY 1.8%		
Amgen Inc.*	289,100	16,816,947
Gilead Sciences, Inc.*	185,800	6,650,711
Pharmion Corporation*	681,300	19,747,481
		<u>43,215,139</u>
BUILDING PRODUCTS 0.5%		
Masco Corporation	333,400	11,558,978
CAPITAL MARKETS 2.5%		
Bank of New York Company, Inc. (The)	370,000	10,748,500
Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (The)	166,400	18,302,336
Merrill Lynch & Co. Inc.	313,400	17,738,440
Morgan Stanley	247,370	14,161,932
		<u>60,951,208</u>
CHEMICALS 1.8%		
Dow Chemical Co. (The)	446,100	22,238,085
Praxair, Inc.	439,200	21,020,112
		<u>43,258,197</u>

COMMERCIAL BANKS 3.4%

Bank of America Corporation	630,440	27,802,404
Fifth Third Bancorp	259,600	11,158,906
Wachovia Corporation	593,563	30,218,292
Wells Fargo & Company	209,800	12,546,040

81,725,642

Shares or
Warrants

COMMERCIAL SERVICES**AND SUPPLIES 2.3%**

Cendant Corporation	728,800 shs.	14,969,552
ServiceMaster Company (The)	1,379,000	18,616,500
Waste Management Inc.	733,000	21,147,050

54,733,102

COMMUNICATIONS**EQUIPMENT 4.9%**

Cisco Systems, Inc.*	2,256,880	40,432,005
Lucent Technologies, Inc.*	5,238,700	14,406,425
Lucent Technologies, Inc.*	36,077 wts	24,352
Nokia Corp. (ADR)	1,910,100 shs.	29,472,843
Nortel Networks Corporation *	5,613,300	15,324,309
QUALCOMM Inc.	512,100	18,760,784

118,420,718

COMPUTERS AND**PERIPHERALS 3.3%**

Dell Inc.*	241,860	9,293,471
EMC Corporation*	1,756,400	21,638,848
Hewlett-Packard Company	710,130	15,580,252
International Business Machines Corporation	367,120	33,547,426

80,059,997

CONSUMER FINANCE 1.0%

American Express Company	453,830	23,313,247
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CONTAINERS AND**PACKAGING 0.7%**

Smurfit-Stone Container Company*	1,008,900	15,602,638
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DIVERSIFIED FINANCIAL

SERVICES 4.2%		
CIT Group Inc.	296,200	11,255,600
Citigroup Inc.	1,580,830	71,042,500
J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.	524,100	18,133,860
		<hr/>
		100,431,960
		<hr/>
DIVERSIFIED		
TELECOMMUNICATION		
SERVICES 2.5%		
Citizens Communications Company	1,190,000	15,398,600
SBC Communications Inc.	371,500	8,800,835
Sprint (FON Group)	798,500	18,165,875
Verizon Communications Inc.	487,300	17,299,150
		<hr/>
		59,664,460
		<hr/>

See footnotes on page 7.

Tri-Continental Corporation

	March 31, 2005	
Portfolio of Investments (unaudited)	Shares	Value
	<hr/>	<hr/>
ELECTRIC UTILITIES 0.6%		
PPL Corporation	248,500	\$ 13,416,515
		<hr/>
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS 0.6%		
Jabil Circuit, Inc.*	530,040	15,116,741
		<hr/>
ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES 0.4%		
Noble Corporation*	186,300 (1)	10,471,923
		<hr/>
FOOD AND STAPLES RETAILING 3.3%		
Kroger Company (The)*	1,057,500	16,951,725
Sysco Corporation	305,000	10,919,000
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	1,023,820	51,303,620
		<hr/>
		79,174,345
		<hr/>
FOOD PRODUCTS 0.8%		
Dean Foods Company*	565,100	19,382,930
		<hr/>
HEALTH CARE EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES 1.2%		
Boston Scientific Corporation*	401,400	11,757,006
Medtronic, Inc.	322,400	16,426,280
		<hr/>
		28,183,286
		<hr/>
HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND SERVICES 0.6%		
WellPoint Inc.*	107,600	13,487,660
		<hr/>
HOTELS, RESTAURANTS AND LEISURE 1.1%		
Applebee's International, Inc.	484,900	13,351,722
Marriott International, Inc.		
Class [A]	211,400	14,134,204
		<hr/>
		27,485,926
		<hr/>
HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS 1.7%		

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Colgate-Palmolive Company	385,200	20,095,884
Procter & Gamble Company (The)	374,612	19,854,436
		<hr/>
		39,950,320
		<hr/>
INDEX DERIVATIVES 0.8%		
iShares DJ Select Dividend Index Fund	306,400	18,331,912
		<hr/>
INDUSTRIAL		
CONGLOMERATES 5.7%		
General Electric Company	2,598,850	93,714,531
Tyco International Ltd.	1,281,040	43,299,152
		<hr/>
		137,013,683
		<hr/>
INSURANCE 3.7%		
American International Group, Inc.	704,700	39,047,427
Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.	156,300	10,715,928
PartnerRe Ltd.	156,500	10,109,900
Prudential Financial, Inc.	508,500	29,187,900
		<hr/>
		89,061,155
		<hr/>
INTERNET AND		
CATALOG RETAIL 0.6%		
eBay Inc.*	377,320	14,057,057
		<hr/>
INTERNET SOFTWARE		
AND SERVICES 1.1%		
Ask Jeeves, Inc.*	454,900	12,764,494
Yahoo!, Inc.*	382,500	12,987,788
		<hr/>
		25,752,282
		<hr/>
MACHINERY 1.7%		
Deere & Company	192,100	12,895,673
Illinois Tool Works Inc.	318,980	28,558,279
		<hr/>
		41,453,952
		<hr/>
MEDIA 5.4%		
Clear Channel Communications, Inc.	788,900	27,193,383
Comcast Corporation Class <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> *	571,600	19,274,352
News Corp. (Class A)	740,300	12,525,876
Time Warner Inc.*	2,151,000	37,750,050

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Tribune Company	347,700	13,862,799
Univision Communications Inc. Class [A]*	674,500	18,676,905
		<hr/>
		129,283,365
		<hr/>
METALS AND MINING 1.8%		
Alcoa Inc.	944,900	28,715,511
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. Class [B]	381,600	15,115,176
		<hr/>
		43,830,687
		<hr/>
MULTI-LINE RETAIL 0.7%		
May Department Stores Company	484,800	17,947,296
		<hr/>
MULTI-UTILITIES AND UNREGULATED POWER 0.5%		
Duke Energy Corporation	450,200	12,610,102
		<hr/>

See footnotes on page 7.

Tri-Continental Corporation

	March 31, 2005	
Portfolio of Investments (unaudited)	Shares	Value
OIL AND GAS 4.2%		
BP p.l.c. (ADR)	219,800	\$ 13,715,520
Chevron Texaco Corporation	166,300 ⁽¹⁾	9,696,953
Exxon Mobil Corporation	1,307,925 ⁽²⁾	77,952,330
		<hr/> 101,364,803 <hr/>
PAPER AND FOREST PRODUCTS 0.5%		
Weyerhaeuser Company	189,020	12,947,870
		<hr/>
PERSONAL PRODUCTS 0.4%		
Gillette Company	206,200	10,408,976
		<hr/>
PHARMACEUTICALS 9.3%		
Andrx Corp.*	1,082,700	24,555,636
Forest Laboratories, Inc.*	488,200	18,038,990
Johnson & Johnson	541,263	36,351,223
Lilly Eli & Company	369,200	19,235,320
Merck & Co. Inc.	498,400	16,133,208
Novartis (ADR)	506,300	23,684,714
Pfizer Inc.	2,358,738	61,964,047
Wyeth	532,300	22,452,414
		<hr/> 222,415,552 <hr/>
SEMICONDUCTORS AND SEMICONDUCTOR EQUIPMENT 2.9%		
Applied Materials, Inc.	743,300	12,082,341
Broadcom Corporation		
Class [A]*	398,500	11,953,008
Intel Corporation	1,987,490	46,169,393
		<hr/> 70,204,742 <hr/>
SOFTWARE 6.2%		
Check Point Software Technologies Ltd.*	499,700	10,855,982
Computer Associates International, Inc.	808,500	21,910,350
Microsoft Corp.	2,933,056	70,877,298
Novell, Inc.*	3,023,500	18,004,943

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Oracle Corporation*	561,100	6,999,722
Symantec Corporation*	935,800	19,988,688
		148,636,983
SPECIALTY RETAIL 1.8%		
Advance Auto Parts, Inc.*	247,700	12,496,465
The Gap, Inc.	702,100	15,333,864
Michaels Stores, Inc.	419,100	15,213,330
		43,043,659
	Shares, Shares Subject to Put or Partnership Interest	Value
THRIFTS AND MORTGAGE		
FINANCE 2.1%		
Fannie Mae	408,200 shs.	\$ 22,226,490
Freddie Mac	223,700	14,137,840
Radian Group Inc.	285,800	13,644,092
		50,008,422
TOBACCO 2.4%		
Altria Group, Inc.	883,180	57,751,140
WIRELESS		
TELECOMMUNICATION		
SERVICES 1.8%		
American Tower Corporation		
Class [A]*	689,600	12,571,408
Crown Castle		
International Corp.*	1,967,400	31,596,444
		44,167,852
TOTAL COMMON STOCKS		
AND WARRANTS		
(Cost \$2,210,903,658)		2,343,367,553
TRI-CONTINENTAL		
FINANCIAL DIVISION 0.1%		
WCAS Capital		
Partners II, L.P.[]	\$4,673,677	2,168,259

Whitney Subordinated Debt Fund, L.P.□	2,207,549	920,833
		<hr/>
TOTAL TRI-CONTINENTAL FINANCIAL DIVISION (Cost \$6,881,226)		3,089,092
		<hr/>
PUT OPTIONS* 0.1% ENERGY EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES 0.0% Noble Corporation, expiring June 2005 at \$55	186,300 shs.	526,297
		<hr/>

See footnotes on page 7.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Portfolio of Investments (unaudited)

March 31, 2005

	Shares Subject to Put/Call or Principal Amount	Value
	<hr/>	<hr/>
OIL AND GAS 0.1%		
ChevronTexaco Corporation, expiring June 2005 at \$55	83,200shs\$	108,160
ChevronTexaco Corporation, expiring June 2005 at \$60	83,100	290,850
Exxon Mobil Corporation, expiring July 2005 at \$55	327,000	359,700
Exxon Mobil Corporation, expiring July 2005 at \$60	327,000	981,000
		<hr/>
		1,739,710
		<hr/>
TOTAL PUT OPTIONS (Cost \$1,699,716)		2,266,007
		<hr/>
FIXED TIME DEPOSITS 2.0%		
BNP Paribas, Grand Cayman 2.86%, 4/1/2005 (Cost \$48,709,000)	48,709,000	48,709,000
		<hr/>
TOTAL INVESTMENTS (Cost \$2,268,193,600**) 99.8%		2,397,431,652
		<hr/>
CALL OPTIONS WRITTEN		
ChevronTexaco Corporation, expiring June 2005 at \$65 (Premium received \$202,879)	(166,300shs.)	(91,465)
Exxon Mobil Corporation, expiring July 2005 at \$65 (Premium received \$676,867)	(327,000)	(376,050)
Exxon Mobil Corporation, expiring July 2005 at \$70 (Premium received \$238,702)	(327,000)	(147,150)
Noble Corporation, expiring June 2005 at \$60 (Premium received \$276,795)	(93,200)	(191,060)

	Shares Subject to Call	Value
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Noble Corporation, expiring June 2005 at \$65 (Premium received \$122,888)	(93,100)	(86,117)
TOTAL CALL OPTIONS		
WRITTEN		
(Premium received \$1,518,131)		<u>(891,842)</u>
OTHER ASSETS LESS		
OTHER LIABILITIES 0.2%		<u>4,912,414</u>
NET ASSETS 100.0%		<u>2,401,452,224</u>

* Non-income producing security.

** The cost of investments for federal income tax purposes was \$2,269,787,301. The tax basis gross unrealized appreciation and depreciation of portfolio securities were \$249,311,879 and \$121,667,528, respectively.

Restricted security.

(1) All shares subject to call.

(2) 654,000 shares subject to call.

ADR - American Depositary Receipt.

Security Valuation - Securities (including options) traded on an exchange are valued at the last sales price on the primary exchange or market on which they are traded. Securities not listed on an exchange or security market, or securities for which there is no last sales price, are valued at the mean of the most recent bid and asked prices or are valued by J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated (the "Manager") based on quotations provided by primary market makers in such securities. Securities for which market quotations are not readily available or are otherwise no longer valid or reliable are valued at fair value determined in accordance with procedures approved by the Board of Directors. This can occur in the event of, among other things, natural disasters, acts of terrorism, market disruptions, intra-day trading halts, and extreme market volatility. Short-term holdings that mature in more than 60 days are valued at current market quotations. Short-term holdings maturing in 60 days or less are valued at amortized cost.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Stockholder Services

Tri-Continental provides a number of services to make maintaining an investment in its Common Stock more convenient. Please consult Tri-Continental's prospectus for the terms and conditions of these services.

Automatic Dividend Investment and Cash Purchase Plan. Subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the prospectus, Stockholders may automatically purchase additional shares with dividends and capital gains. There is no charge for this service. Stockholders may also, subject to the terms and conditions of the prospectus, purchase additional shares directly from the Corporation. There is a service fee of a maximum of \$2.00 for each cash purchase transaction.

Automatic Cash Withdrawal Plan. Stockholders who hold common shares with a market value of \$5,000 or more may elect to receive a fixed amount from their investment at regular intervals by selling their shares to the Corporation.

Traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA). Stockholders who have earned income and are under age 70 ¹/₂ may contribute up to \$4,000 per year to a Traditional IRA for 2005. A working or non-working spouse may also contribute up to \$4,000 to a separate Traditional IRA for 2005. Additionally, individuals who reach age 50 prior to the end of a taxable year may make "catch-up contributions" to a Traditional IRA of up to \$500 (increasing to \$1,000 for years beginning after 2005). Contributions to a Traditional IRA may be deductible or non-deductible. If you are single and *not* covered by an employer's retirement plan, your contribution will always be deductible. For individuals who are covered by a plan, contributions will be fully deductible if your modified adjusted gross income (MAGI) in 2005 is less than \$50,000. For spouses who are both covered by a plan, contributions will be fully deductible if your MAGI is less than \$70,000. If one spouse does not work or is not covered by a retirement plan, that spouse's contribution will be fully deductible provided your household MAGI does not exceed \$150,000. If your contribution is not deductible, you may still take advantage of the tax-deferred accumulation of earnings in your Traditional IRA.

Rollover IRA. You may be eligible to roll over a distribution of assets received from another IRA, a qualified employee benefit plan, or tax-deferred annuity into a Rollover IRA with Tri-Continental. To avoid a tax penalty, the transfer to a Rollover IRA must occur within 60 days of receipt of the qualifying distribution. If you do not make a direct transfer of a distribution from a qualified employee benefit plan or a tax-deferred annuity to a Rollover IRA, the payor of the distribution must withhold 20% of the distribution.

Roth IRA. You (and a working or non-working spouse) may each make an after-tax contribution of up to \$4,000 per year to a Roth IRA provided you have earned income and meet the eligibility requirements. Your MAGI must be less than \$95,000 (individuals) or \$150,000 (married couples) to be eligible to make a full contribution to a Roth IRA. You are eligible to make a partial Roth IRA contribution if your MAGI is below \$110,000 (individuals) or \$160,000 (married couples). Total combined contributions to a Roth IRA and a Traditional IRA cannot exceed \$4,000 in any year. Additionally, individuals who reach age 50 prior to the end of a taxable year may make "catch-up contributions" to either a Roth IRA or Traditional IRA of up to \$500 (increasing to \$1,000 for years beginning after 2005). Earnings grow tax-free and will be distributed to you tax-free and penalty-free provided that you hold your account for at least five years **and** you take the distribution either after age 59 ¹/₂, for disability, upon death, or to make a first-time home purchase (up to \$10,000). Unlike

Tri-Continental Corporation

Stockholder Services (continued)

a Traditional IRA, you may contribute to a Roth IRA even if you are over age 70¹/₂ (if you have earned income), and you are not required to take minimum distributions at age 70¹/₂. You may convert an existing Traditional IRA to a Roth IRA to take advantage of tax-free distributions. You must pay taxes on any earnings and deductible contributions in your Traditional IRA when converting it to a Roth IRA. Talk to your financial advisor for more details on converting your Traditional IRA.

Retirement Planning **Qualified Plans** Unincorporated businesses and the self-employed may take advantage of the same benefits in their retirement plans that are available to corporations. Contribution levels can go as high as 100% of earned income (reduced by plan contributions), to a maximum of \$42,000 per participant. For retirement plan purposes, no more than \$210,000 may be taken into account as earned income under the plan in 2005. Social Security integration and employee vesting schedules are also available as options in the Tri-Continental prototype retirement plans. Although you already may be participating in an employer's retirement plan, you may be eligible to establish another plan based upon income from other sources, such as director's fees.

Retirement Plan Services provides information about our prototype retirement plans. The toll-free telephone number is (800) 445-1777 in the US and (212) 682-7600 outside the US.

Gifts Free of Federal Tax are often made using Tri-Continental Common Stock. You may give as much as \$11,000 a year to as many individuals as desired free of federal gift tax, and a married couple may give up to \$22,000 a year.

Stock Repurchase Program. On November 18, 2004, the Board of Directors authorized the renewal of Tri-Continental's ongoing share repurchase program. The program authorizes the Corporation to repurchase up to 5.6% of the Corporation's shares during the period from renewal through December 31, 2005, provided that the discount of a share's market price to its net asset value (NAV) remains greater than 10%. The stock repurchase plan seeks, among other things, to moderate the growth in the number of shares outstanding, increase the net asset value of outstanding shares, increase the liquidity of Tri-Continental's common stock, and reduce the dilutive impact on Stockholders who do not take capital gains distributions, when such distributions are made, in additional shares.

Between November 18, 2004 and March 31, 2005, 2.0 million shares were repurchased. This is approximately 1.7% of the shares outstanding at the beginning of the period. The repurchase of additional shares is expected to continue through December 31, 2005, as long as the discount remains above 10%.

Tri-Continental Corporation

Board of Directors

Robert B. Catell (2,3)

Chairman, Chief Executive Officer and Director
KeySpan Corporation

John R. Galvin (1,3)

Dean Emeritus, Fletcher School of Law and
Diplomacy at Tufts University

Alice S. Ilchman (2,3)

President Emerita, Sarah Lawrence College
Director, Jeannette K. Watson Summer Fellowship
Trustee, Committee for Economic Development

Frank A. McPherson (2,3)

Retired Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive
Officer, Kerr-McGee Corporation
Director, ConocoPhillips
Director, Integris Health

John E. Merow* (1,3)

Retired Chairman and Senior Partner,
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Director, Aleris International, Inc.
Trustee, New York-Presbyterian Hospital

Betsy S. Michel (1,3)

Trustee, The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

William C. Morris

Chairman, J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated
Chairman, Carbo Ceramics Inc.

Leroy C. Richie (1,3)

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer,
Q Standards Worldwide, Inc.
Director, Kerr-McGee Corporation

Robert L. Shafer (2,3)

Ambassador and Permanent Observer of The
Sovereign and
Military Order of Malta to the United Nations

James N. Whitson (1,3)

Retired Executive Vice President and Chief
Operating
Officer, Sammons Enterprises, Inc.
Director, CommScope, Inc.

Brian T. Zino

Director and President,
J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated
Chairman, Seligman Data Corp.
Director, ICI Mutual Insurance Company
Member of the Board of Governors,
Investment Company Institute

* Will retire on May 19, 2005.

Member: (1) Audit Committee
(2) Director Nominating Committee
(3) Board Operations Committee

Tri-Continental Corporation

Executive Officers

William C. Morris
Chairman

Brian T. Zino
President and Chief Executive Officer

John B. Cunningham
Vice President

Eleanor T. Hoagland
Vice President and Chief Compliance Officer

Charles W. Kadlec
Vice President

Michael F. McGarry
Vice President

Thomas G. Rose
Vice President

Lawrence P. Vogel
Vice President and Treasurer

Frank J. Nasta
Secretary

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Tri-Continental Corporation

For More Information

Manager

J. & W. Seligman & Co. Incorporated
100 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Stockholder Service Agent

Seligman Data Corp.
100 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Important Telephone Numbers

(800) TRI-1092	Stockholder Services
(800) 445-1777	Retirement Plan Services
(212) 682-7600	Outside the United States
(800) 622-4597	24-Hour Automated Telephone Access Service

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J. & W. SELIGMAN & CO.
INCORPORATED
INVESTMENT MANAGERS AND ADVISORS
ESTABLISHED 1864

100 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10017

This report is intended only for the information of Stockholders who have received the current prospectus covering shares of Common Stock of Tri-Continental Corporation, which contains information about investment objectives, risks, management fees and other costs. The prospectus should be read carefully before investing and may be obtained by calling Stockholder Services at 800-TRI-1092.

CETRI3a 3/05