SECURITIES, OPTIONS AND FUTURES

dited by FRANK J. FABOZZI and FRANK G. ZARB

Handbook of Financial Markets Markets Securities, Options, Futures

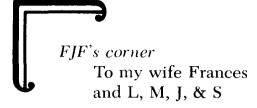
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FGZ's corner

To my wife Patricia, daughter Krista, and son Frank Jr.

Foreword

I once received a letter from a college student who posed several blunt questions concerning our nation's economy. One of the questions was, "What can we as citizens of the United States do to help the economic situation?" I responded that there were several principles of life that all of us can observe with the conviction that we will be helping our nation's economic situation. Foremost among those principles is the responsibility to improve our understanding of economic phenomena. Education is a never-ending process. The intellectual excitement of the classroom need not be lost and should not be lost as we move on in life. The economic problems of our time are profoundly challenging, and there will be new ones in the future. We must strive for dependable knowledge of economic realities so that we can make wiser decisions in the marketplace and at the polling booth. This work assembled by Frank J. Fabozzi and Frank G. Zarb is an important contribution to basic understanding of today's investment markets.

Arthur F. Burns

Preface

Sound investment policy requires an understanding of the different investment instruments from which a portfolio can be constructed. Investors are generally familiar with some of the more common instruments, but it is the experience of the editors that many misconceptions surround some instruments. Options and futures contracts, for example, are depicted as purely speculative instruments by some members of the investing public. Such a categorization reflects the lack of understanding about how these instruments can reduce overall portfolio risk when properly utilized.

Given the increasing number of outlets available to investors in the securities, options, and futures markets, the editors felt a need for a handbook that would provide a broad knowledge of these alternatives. The Handbook, intended for both experienced and novice investors, is divided into three books: Securities Markets, Options Market, and Futures Markets. The instruments and trading mechanics for each market are described. Since all forms of investing involve the assumption of risk, the particular risks associated with each instrument are explained. Because investors seek to maximize aftertax returns after adjusting for risk, the basic provisions of the tax code applicable to instruments traded in the three markets are discussed.

A well-educated investor should also be aware of market participants that may influence the price behavior of the instruments traded. Consider, for example, the following conclusion reported in *The New York Times:* "The Institutions . . . dump large blocks of shares in the market at the least hint of trouble, and the small investor usually becomes the victim of the resulting slump in the price of the stock."* Therefore, market participants in each market are described, and a chapter devoted to market psychology explains the herdlike trading pattern behavior of some institutional investors. Since the regulation of market-making activity and commissions charged for transactions will influence trading opportunities, the regulation of each market is discussed.

Each chapter of the *Handbook* was written by an expert in the field. Many of the contributors have written books and articles in leading professional journals about their topic. Several chapters incorporate

^{* &}quot;How to Ignore the Institutions," February 22, 1975, p. 34.

material previously published by a contributor, and we gratefully acknowledge with the appropriate credit line, the organizations permitting the inclusion and updating of such material.

We extend our deep personal appreciation to our contributors and others who contributed to the final product. In particular, our editorial advisory board guided us and gave generously of their precious time. Charles D. Ellis, Patrick J. Regan, and Richard R. West reviewed most of the Securities Markets chapters. Gary L. Gastineau and Edward D. Zinbarg gave considerable direction in the organization and content of the chapters in the Options Market section of the *Handbook*. Mark J. Powers was our sole mentor for Book III, Futures Markets.

An editorial footnote is needed to explain the use of the pronoun he in some parts of the Handbook. In most instances, when referring to a person the contributors used the term investor. It became necessary, however, to use a pronoun at certain times. The pronoun he was selected by both male and female contributors for convention. They felt that alternatives such as he/she or he or she or (s)he are awkward. The use of the generic he throughout this Handbook, then, is meant to include both sexes.

Frank J. Fabozzi Frank G. Zarb

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