

**MARKET COMMENTARY**

In 2020, investors witnessed the devastating impact of a worldwide pandemic on the global economy. While the effect was severe, investors perceived it as a transitory event, and recognized the stimulative influence of massive monetary and fiscal intervention. These interventions helped propel the MSCI World Index which returned +16% for the year. Value investors were largely left behind; however, as the MSCI World Growth Index stocks soared +34% and the MSCI World Value Index declined -1%. This represented the largest gap between the global growth and global value indices ever observed over a calendar year (incepted in 1975), and if history is any guide, sets the stage for a value comeback. We had a glimpse of what that comeback might look like during the fourth quarter of 2020. Value stocks outperformed, buoyed by the economic ramifications of new COVID-19 vaccines and another round of fiscal stimulus.

In our experience, when a major asset class underperforms for as long as value has, most investors are under-allocated to the asset class. Signs of this neglect include incessant rhetoric about the asset class' demise in the financial media, unusually wide valuation gaps, and the fatigue/frustration asset allocators experience when compelled to repeatedly explain why they have invested in such a lagging strategy. When the economic winds shift, however, the out-of-favor asset class can enjoy a substantial and sustained period of outperformance. Following the tech bubble, for example, global value outperformed global growth by more than 75 percentage points over the subsequent seven years. We have learned time and time again, that patience has been rewarded for those that stay focused on fundamentals and valuation.

Despite value outperforming growth in the fourth quarter, the MSCI World Value Index continues to trade at a larger than normal discount to the MSCI World Growth Index. Also, despite the Global Value Fund outperforming the value index, the portfolio continues to trade at a larger than normal discount to the MSCI World Value. The Fund's 4Q outperformance narrowed the gap modestly but we anticipate considerably more reversion ahead.

To achieve such a large valuation discount, a portfolio must not only be invested in stocks trading at substantial discounts to intrinsic value but must also be very different than the index. The portfolio is both. Its active share is 93, which means that 93% of the portfolio is positioned differently than the index. Among their top 10 positions respectively, the portfolio and the index share only one common name (Microsoft). Of the portfolio's top 10 positions, 6 trade at single digit multiples of normal earnings and 5 trade at single digit multiples of consensus forward earnings (FY3), compared to none for the index.

Financials and banks remain the portfolio's largest sector and industry weights, respectively, both in absolute terms and relative to the benchmark. Banks have been an unloved industry for years as scars from the financial crisis remain and regulatory uncertainties linger. When it appeared that the market was finally beginning to recognize the industry's strong recurring profitability and its massive de-risking efforts over the past decade, the global pandemic caused investors to shun banks regardless of underlying fundamentals or valuations. Among the most

important of these de-risking efforts was a substantial increase in capital held on banks' balance sheets. In addition to having excess capital, banks took large provisions throughout the year for potential credit delinquencies that may occur in the future. While these provisions hit 2020 bank earnings, the industry continued to produce compelling pre-provision income, even in the low interest rate environment. The combination of having strong balance sheets, large reserve pools, and ongoing profitability gives us confidence that banks have more than enough capacity to withstand a severe economic downturn much worse than we have experienced thus far. Yet many banks trade at single-digit multiples of normal earnings, which we see as extremely attractive in this market. Further, the Federal Reserve recently lifted stock buyback restrictions in the US. Many US banks are now in a position to return considerable capital to shareholders. This would be accretive to earnings per share thereby improving valuations even more.

Calendar year 2020 was challenging in a myriad of ways. Looking through our value investor lens, the year tested our patience and conviction. We held steady in our commitment to the principles of value investing and worked as a team to ensure existing investments remained prudent and to find new ideas in an ever-changing environment. We will continue to do both. Our team remains entirely intact, the firm is healthy, and we are optimistic that our clients can be rewarded by our commitment and effort. It was reassuring to observe our time-tested investing style come back into vogue during the most recent quarter and we are optimistic that this reversion could be powerful and lasting. We look forward to the new year with enthusiasm.

**ATTRIBUTION – 4Q20**

The Hotchkis & Wiley Global Value Fund outperformed both the MSCI World and the MSCI World Value Indices in the fourth quarter of 2020 by a wide margin. The portfolio has long exhibited valuation characteristics at a discount to both indices, which had been a major stylistic headwind throughout 2020 until reversing in the fourth quarter. Positive stock selection drove more than 80% of the outperformance, as the portfolio outperformed the index in each of the 9 sectors in which it is invested (the portfolio had no exposure to materials or utilities). Positive stock selection in financials and industrials was particularly strong, though consumer discretionary, technology, and energy were meaningfully positive as well. The overweight exposure to financials and energy also helped. The underweight exposure to consumer discretionary and communication service were negative, but marginally so. The largest positive contributors to relative performance in the quarter were General Electric, Euronet Worldwide, AIG, Magna International, and Popular; the largest relative detractors were GlaxoSmithKline, Henkel, Oracle, BAE Systems, and Accor.

Over the calendar year, the fund underperformed the MSCI World Index but modestly outperformed the MSCI World Value Index. The value-focused approach that helped during the fourth quarter hurt over the course of the entire year. Accordingly, the largest contributors/detractors over the year were largely opposite of what occurred during the fourth quarter, with financials being the largest detractor for the year.

*(continued)*

Portfolio managers' opinions and data included in this commentary are as of December 31, 2020 and are subject to change without notice. Any forecasts made cannot be guaranteed. Information obtained from independent sources is considered reliable, but H&W cannot guarantee its accuracy or completeness. Fund holdings and/or sector allocations are subject to change and are not buy/sell recommendations. Current and future portfolio holdings are subject to risk. Certain information presented based on proprietary or third-party estimates are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. **Past performance is no guarantee of future results. Diversification does not assure a profit nor protect against loss in a declining market.**

## LARGEST NEW PURCHASES – 4Q20

Accor is a France-domiciled hotel management company with significant operations in Europe and Asia. We expect travel to recover post-pandemic, and when it does, we expect Accor to resume growing mid-to-upper single digits with minimal capital required. The stock had declined considerably since the start of the pandemic and is trading at an attractive valuation.

Hess is an oil & gas company that owns a significant interest in one of the most valuable oil discoveries of the past decade (offshore Guyana) in addition to other productive assets in and outside of the US. In our opinion, investors are underestimating the cash flows that Hess will generate as the world-class Guyana resource is developed.

Suncor is Canadian energy company. The company owns and operates long-lived oil sands assets in Alberta, as well as refineries in the structurally under-supplied Canadian market. Suncor trades at a very low multiple of the free cash flow we estimate it will generate in a normalized oil price environment.

## PERFORMANCE (%) as of December 31, 2020

	QTR	YTD	1 Yr	3 Yr	5 Yr	Since 12/31/12
Global Value Fund – I Shares	32.15	-0.59	-0.59	1.30	7.16	7.98
MSCI World	13.96	15.90	15.90	10.54	12.19	11.23
MSCI World Value	15.73	-1.16	-1.16	2.39	7.15	7.36

*The performance shown represents past performance. Past performance is no guarantee of future results and current performance may be higher or lower than the performance shown. Investment results and principal value will fluctuate so that shares, when redeemed, may be worth more or less than their original cost. To obtain performance data current to the most recent month-end, access our website at [www.hwcm.com](http://www.hwcm.com).*

whole or from other types of stocks and may be out of favor with investors and underperform growth stocks for varying periods of time. Growth investing tends to work well during speculative, momentum-driven markets, while value investing tends to work well following recessionary periods. Past recessions and recoveries cannot predict future performance due to different factors and circumstances, including differences in US and international financial markets.

The Fund's total annual operating gross expense ratio as of the most current prospectus is 1.32% for I Shares; 0.95% net expense ratio. The Advisor has contractually agreed to waive advisory fees and/or reimburse expenses through August 31, 2021. Expense ratios shown are gross of any fee waivers or expense reimbursements. I Shares sold to a limited group of investors. Periods over one year are average annual total return. Average annual total returns include reinvestment of dividends and capital gains. Expense limitations may have increased the Fund's total return.

Market Disruption: The recent global coronavirus pandemic has caused and continues to cause disruption in the global economy, unprecedented business and travel disruption and extreme fluctuations in global capital and financial markets. H&W is unable to predict the consequences of the upheaval caused by coronavirus pandemic, which, depending on the severity and the length of the outbreak, has the potential to negatively impact the firm's investment strategies and reduce available investment opportunities.

*You should consider the Fund's investment objectives, risks, and charges and expenses carefully before you invest. This and other important information is contained in the Fund's summary prospectus and prospectus, which can be obtained by calling 1-800-796-5606 or visiting our website at [www.hwcm.com](http://www.hwcm.com). Read carefully before you invest.*

MSCI makes no express or implied warranties or representations and shall have no liability whatsoever with respect to any MSCI data contained herein. The MSCI data may not be further redistributed or used as a basis for other indices or any securities or financial products. This report is not approved, reviewed, or produced by MSCI. See [www.hwcm.com / Index definitions](http://www.hwcm.com/IndexDefinitions) for full disclaimer.

*The Fund may invest in foreign and emerging markets securities, which subjects the Fund to increased risk. Please read the fund prospectus for a full list of fund risks. All investments contain risk and may lose value. Specific securities identified are the largest contributors (or detractors) on a relative basis to the MSCI World Index. Securities' absolute performance may reflect different results. The Fund may not continue to hold the securities mentioned and the Advisor has no obligation to disclose purchases or sales of these securities. Attribution is an analysis of the portfolio's return relative to a selected benchmark, is calculated using daily holding information and does not reflect the payment of transaction costs, fees and expenses of the Fund. The "Largest New Purchases" section includes the three largest new security positions during the quarter/year based on the security's quarter/year-end weight adjusted for its relative return contribution; does not include any security received as a result of a corporate action; if fewer than three new security positions during the quarter/year, all new security positions are included.*

The MSCI World Index is a free float-adjusted weighted index capturing large and mid cap stocks. The MSCI World Value and MSCI World Growth Indices are free float-adjusted weighted indexes capturing large and mid cap stocks, exhibiting overall value or growth style characteristics, respectively. The MSCI indices represent stocks across 23 Developed Markets (DM) countries and include reinvestment of dividends, net foreign withholding taxes. The indices do not reflect the payment of transaction costs, fees and expenses associated with an investment in the Fund. The Fund's value disciplines may prevent or restrict investment in major stocks in the benchmark indices. It is not possible to invest directly in an index. Price-to-Normal Earnings is the current market price per share divided by normalized earnings per share. Active share is the extent to which the portfolio differs from the MSCI World Index. Top ten holdings as of 12/31/20 as a % of the Fund's net assets: American Int'l Group Inc. 5.0%, General Electric Co. 4.8%, Wells Fargo & Co. 4.0%, Anthem Inc. 3.5%, Euronet Worldwide Inc. 3.4%, Citigroup Inc. 3.1%, Popular Inc. 2.8%, Magna International Inc. 2.7%, Oracle Corp. 2.7%, and Microsoft Corp. 2.5%. **Forward earnings is not representative of the Fund's future performance.**

Style Risk: A value-oriented investment approach involves the risk that value stocks may remain undervalued or may not appreciate in value as anticipated. Value stocks can perform differently from the market as a

**Mutual fund investing involves risk. Principal loss is possible.  
NOT FDIC INSURED • NO BANK GUARANTEE • MAY LOSE VALUE  
The Hotchkis & Wiley Funds are distributed by Quasar Distributors, LLC**