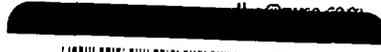


Manager  
Securities Operations

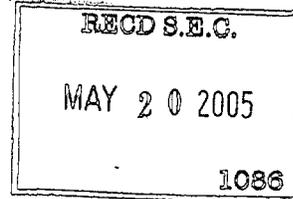
NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE, Inc.  
20 Broad Street  
New York, NY 10005

tel: 212.656.5026  
fax: 212.656.5893



05055728

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May 20, 2005

Mr. Brian Johnson  
Branch Chief  
Securities and Exchange Commission  
Branch of Filer Support 2  
Room 2531 – STOP 1004  
100 F Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20549

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The New York Stock Exchange certifies approval for listing and registration under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Darden Restaurants, Inc., Preferred Share Purchase Rights and requests immediate acceleration of registration. Adequate distribution assured. Form 8-A received on May 20, 2005.

Sincerely,

*Paul D'Adda*

PROCESSED

MAY 24 2005

THOMSON  
FINANCIAL

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