Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Co Form 4 September 18, 2014

FORM 4

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

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF

SECURITIES

OMB APPROVAL

OMB Number: 3235-0287

Expires: January 31, 2005

0.5

Estimated average burden hours per response...

if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5

obligations

may continue.

See Instruction

Check this box

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section

30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1(b).

(Print or Type Responses)

| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person ** Bayers William Frederick | | | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer | | | |
|---|-------------------|----------------|--|---|--|--|--|
| | | | Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Co [HMHC] | (Check all applicable) | | | |
| (Last) | (First) | (Middle) | 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) | Director 10% Owner X Officer (give title Other (specify | | | |
| 222 BERKELE | 2 BERKELEY STREET | | 09/16/2014 | below) below) See remarks. | | | |
| | (Street) | | 4. If Amendment, Date Original | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check | | | |
| | | | Filed(Month/Day/Year) | Applicable Line) _X_ Form filed by One Reporting Person | | | |
| BOSTON, MA | . 02116 | | | Form filed by More than One Reporting Person | | | |
| | (6 | (7 : \ | | | | | |

| (City) | (State) | (Zip) Tak | ole I - Non- | Derivative Secu | rities Acqui | red, Disposed of, | or Beneficiall | y Owned |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|----------------------|--|--|---|
| 1.Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acord Disposed of (Instr. 3, 4 and (A) or Amount (D) | (D) 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
| Common Stock | 09/16/2014 | | M | 15,000 A | \$ 12.5 | 18,137 | D | |
| Common Stock | 09/16/2014 | | S <u>(1)</u> | 15,000 D | \$ 19.8105 (2) | 3,137 | D | |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474

(9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transactic Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of orDerivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | Derivative Expiration Date (Month/Day/Yea (A) r Disposed of D) nstr. 3, 4, | | 7. Title and A Underlying S (Instr. 3 and | Securities |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | | | | Code V | (A) (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | Title | Amount or Number of Shares |
| Employee Stock Option (Right to Buy) | \$ 12.5 | 09/16/2014 | | M | 15,000 | (3) | 06/22/2019 | Common Stock | 15,000 |

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

Bayers William Frederick 222 BERKELEY STREET BOSTON, MA 02116

See remarks.

Signatures

/s/ William F.

Bayers 09/18/2014

**Signature of Person Date

Reporting Person

Explanation of Responses:

- * If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- ** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) These shares were sold pursuant to a Rule 10b5-1 trading plan.
- The sale price represents the weighted average sale price for multiple transactions reported on this line. The prices of the transactions ranged from \$19.70 to \$19.99. Upon request of the staff of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Company (the "Company") or a security holder of the Company, the reporting person will provide full information regarding the number of shares sold at each separate price.
- (3) 50% of this grant of employee stock options has vested and is currently exercisable. The remaining stock options vest in two equal installments on June 22, 2015 and June 22, 2016, subject to continued employment with the Company.

Remarks:

Executive Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

Reporting Owners 2

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