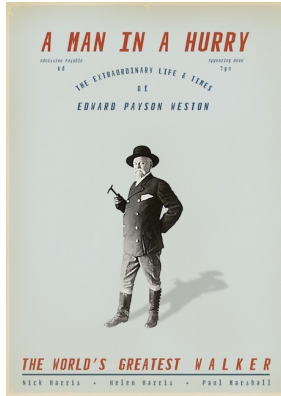


PRESS RELEASE — 27 March 2012



deCoubertin Books are delighted to announce the publication of ***A Man in a Hurry: The Extraordinary Life and Times of Edward Payson Weston, The World's Greatest Walker*** by Nick Harris, Helen Harris and Paul Marshall.

The new book tells the enthralling story of **Edward Payson Weston**, of Providence, Rhode Island, USA, who, as Godfather of the pedestrianism movement, was for a period in the nineteenth century, one of the most famous people in the world. "***A Man in a Hurry*** offers a fascinating window into Victorian society, and the emergence of spectator sport and endurance events. This world is brought to life by a brilliant team of writers who tell Weston's story superbly." — **James Corbett**.

"Weston's astonishing athletic feats are only part of his attraction. He was a showman and social butterfly, a dreamer and a cad. He cared desperately what people thought of him, but acted like he didn't care at all. His story has everything: achievement, controversy, celebrity, love, money, drugs. If he were alive today, he'd be a regular on the back pages of every broadsheet and the front pages of every tabloid."

— **Nick Harris** is chief sports news correspondent of the *Mail on Sunday*, editor of sportingintelligence.com and named SJA Internet Sports Writer of the Year in 2011/2012.

"What he brought to the party was his personality. He was a fantastic athlete, capable of walking 80 miles without stopping, but he was also a terrible show-off, given to singing and clowning around during races. He was at least two parts showman to one part athlete, a recipe that made walking races (essentially a man or men walking round and round a track, hour after hour) so dramatic and entertaining, not to mention controversial, that they began to draw audiences of up to 20,000 people a day."

— **Helen Harris** has worked as a journalist and as a press officer with The Wildlife Trusts.

"Imagine being so famous, that nearly every word you spoke and every move you made was written about? Imagine being feted like a film star, a famous politician, or even royalty wherever you went? Imagine performing in front of thousands of screaming spectators, many of whom just loved you to bits? Imagine walking down streets that were lined by thousands of people cheering for you? Imagine being given a police escort to stop mobs of people from trying to touch you? Imagine being welcomed into hamlets, villages, towns and cities by the sound of cannon fire, the warmth of bonfires and the illuminating spectacle of fireworks? Imagine schoolchildren being let out of lessons and factory workers being told to lay down their tools, so that they could catch a glimpse of you? Imagine being listened to by packed audiences? ... Imagine being a sporting superstar like Edward Payson Weston?"

— **Paul Marshall** is editor of kingofthepeds.com.

About deCoubertin Books: Founded in 2009, deCoubertin Books is a small, family run publishing house, focused on non-fiction, particularly sport. deCoubertin Books founder James Corbett said: "deCoubertin Books was established as a platform for leading writers to write with élan and insight about the stories that matter most, particularly in sport."

Nick Harris is available for interview. For interview requests and review copies, please contact Anna Corbett – anna@decoubertin.co.uk 011 44 203 289 9985 www.decoubertin.co.uk