JACQUES-ETIENNE MONTGOLFIER & JOSEPH-MICHEL MONTGOLFIER
INDUCTED 1995
JOSEPH-MICHEL MONTGOLFIER
France
Scientific balloonist
Inducted 1995
1740, Annonay – 1810

JACQUES-ETIENNE MONTGOLFIER
France
Inducted 1995
Scientific balloonist
1745, Annonay – 1799

The Montgolfier brothers, inventors of ballooning, were sons of a paper manufacturer and were scientific by inclination. On September 19, 1782 they launched a balloon carrying a rooster, a duck and a sheep, the first animal test pilots. On November 21, 1783 they launched the world’s first manned aircraft, flown by Pilâtre de Rozier and the Marquis d’Arlandes. They flew across Paris for a distance of 5 miles and reached an altitude of 3000 feet.

Joseph was self-educated; Etienne was the business manager, and had studied architecture in Paris. Together they built and launched six manned balloons. Hot air balloons are called montgolfière in their honor.

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