

**AA-1 Price:        \$175.00 USD                      Year of Issue:    1978**

First Trans-Atlantic Crossing in a Balloon - 1978

68mm, Bronze. Created for la Monnaie de Paris (Paris Mint) 1978

This medal was struck in 1978 by the Paris Mint to commemorate the first trans-Atlantic crossing by a balloon. Landing at Misery, France after a flight of 5 days, 17 hours, 5 minutes and 50 seconds, the flight covered a distance of 5001 km. The Double Eagle II balloon was piloted by American balloonists, Maxi Anderson, Ben Abruzzo, and Larry Newman.

One side depicts the balloon over the Atlantic between the USA and France with the dates of August 12 and August 17 (departure and landing). The reverse features portraits of the three pilots, the city of departure (Presque Isle, Maine) and the city of landing: Misery France. It also shows the total time of the crossing in French.

**AA-2 Price:        \$200.00 USD                      Year of Issue:    1955**

Portrait Medal, 1955, Jules Verne 1828-1905, Science-Geographie-Fiction

Designed by French Sculptor and Medalist R. B. Baron (Roger B. Baron) (1907-1994) 68mm, Bronze. Created for la Monnaie de Paris (Paris Mint)

The front features a portrait of Jules Verne, his birth and death dates, and the inscription: Science-Geographie-Fiction. The reverse mentions these books: Around the World in 80 Days (Le Tour du monde en 80 jours), Five Weeks in a Balloon (5 Semaines en ballon), Voyage from the Earth to the Moon (Voyage del la terre a la lune), and 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (20 mille lieues sous le mers).

The artwork shows a modern high altitude balloon, a map showing Africa and Europe, a map of part of the moon, a modern submarine, and an octopus (note: it should be a squid).

**AA-3Price: \$150.00 USD Year of Issue: 1983**

PREMIERS VOLS HUMAINS (First Manned Flight) - Montgolfier Brothers - BALLOONS - Created for la Monnaie de Paris (Paris Mint) By P.Karolak 1983

72mm, bronze

The front of this medal features portraits of the two Montgolfier brothers who are credited with the invention of the balloon, making human flight possible for the first time. Joseph de Montgolfier lived from 1740 to 1810; Etienne de Montgolfier lived from 1745 to 1799. The French inscription "INVENTEURS DE L'AEROSTAT" translates to INVENTORS OF THE BALLOON. In the middle is a stylized depiction of the first manned balloon ascending into the sky.

The reverse depicts the two first flights of manned balloons. In the foreground is the Montgolfier hot air balloon. On Nov. 21, 1783, the first manned untethered flight took place in a Montgolfier balloon with Pilatre de Rozier and François Laurent, marquis d'Arlandes, as passengers. The balloon sailed over Paris for 5.5 miles (9 kilometres) in about 25 minutes and gained an altitude of about 1000 meters. In the distance is the gas balloon of Charles and Robert. On the 1st of December, 1783, Professor Jacques Charles et Noël Robert flew 35 km in a boat-shaped gondola suspended from a silk balloon envelope filled with hydrogen gas. They attained an altitude of 3000 meters.



**AA-4 Price: \$120.00 USD**

**Year of Issue: 1983**

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Bronze medal struck to commemorate the Montgolfiers' invention of the hot air balloon. Dimensions: 1 5/9" (41mm) in diameter.

Created for la Monnaie de Paris (Paris Mint) 1983.

The first balloon flight took place on June 4, 1783, and the medal was issued shortly after. The first flight was a demonstration in the southern town of Annonay and was made with a paper balloon built by the Montgolfier brothers. It was unmanned and did not feature a basket or gondola. However, the likeness on the medal is of the first manned balloon which flew on November 22, 1783.

On the front are profiles of the Montgolfier brothers surrounded by the text "JOSE ET ETIEN MONTGOLFIER POUR AVOIR RENDU L'AIR NAVIGABLE" (Jose and Etien Montgolfier, for having rendered air navigable).

On the reverse is a balloon and two emblematic female figures, one seated on a cloud. Around the upper portion are the words "ATTONITUS ORBIS TERRARUM" (The world astonished) and at the bottom "ITINERE PER AERA FELICITER TENTATO ANNO MDCCLXXXIII" (A journey through air felicitously attempted in the year 1783). The name of the artist, "GATTEAUX".

**AA-5 Price: \$120.00 USD**

**Year of Issue: 1984**

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'Le Flesselle' hot-air balloon, January 1784. Medal struck to commemorate the flight of 'Le Flesselles', at Lyon which carried seven people on 19 January 1784.

Bronze medal - Dimensions: 1 5/9" (41mm) in diameter.

Created for la Monnaie de Paris (Paris Mint) 1984.

This is the only recorded flight by Joseph Montgolfier (1740-1810) at Les Brotteaux, near Lyon on 19 January 1784. After the first ascent in a hydrogen balloon by Charles (1746-1823) and Robert on 1 December 1783, the Montgolfier brothers, determined not to be outdone, returned to the South of France where they constructed a balloon of staggering proportions, named 'Le Flesselles', in honour of the Governor of Lyons who had sponsored the project.

It was 131 feet high and 104 feet in diameter with a capacity of more than 700,000 cubic feet. The ascent was watched by over 100,000 people. The balloon reached a height of 3000 feet before a large tear in the fabric resulted in a rapid descent which left the seven aeronauts shaken but unhurt. Disaster befell the great balloon just 13 minutes into the flight. Its envelope ripped and it fell, impacting in a meadow near Lyon. Somehow, none were injured. All of the inhabitants of Lyon as well as 3,000 others had come to witness the feat. Despite the tragedy and death miraculously averted, the event was celebrated — truly, France had gone “balloon mad!”

It was crewed by two experienced balloonists — Joseph-Michel de Montgolfier and Jean-Francois Pilatre de Roziers. Five noble and gentlemen passengers rode along, as reported in “Editions de LE NOIR”, including M. le Prince Charles Deligne, M. le Comte de la porte d’Anglefort, M. le Comte de Laurencin, M. le Comte de Dampierre et M. Fontaine de Lyon.

The design shows the allegorical figure of Genius riding on a lion and writing on a tablet. The inscription reads: 'Que ne peut le Genie' (What can Genius not achieve). To the left is the launch gantry with the balloon above. Designed by Nicolas Maine Gatteaux (1751-1832). The reverse inscription describes the flight.

**AA-6 Price: \$120.00**

**Year of Issue: 1983**

Medal - the Montgolfier brothers and the first unmanned gas balloon flight of Professor Jacques Charles in August 1783.

Bronze medal - Dimensions: 42mm in diameter.

Created for la Monnaie de Paris (Paris Mint) 1983 by N. Gatteaux.

The front depicts superimposed busts of the two Montgolfier brothers. JOSE. ET ETIEN. - MONTGOLFIER// POUR AVOIR RENDU L'AIR NAVIGABLE.

Translation: "For making it possible to navigate the skies." with abbreviated first names. The reverse depicts a rainy cloudy day at the Champ de Mars in Paris on August 27, 1783. The balloon is seen sailing away into the clouds.

The Montgolfier brothers, paper makers and inventors from Annonay, had demonstrated unmanned flight with a hot air balloon on June 4, 1783. Now, on August 27, Professor Charles - a chemist and inventor - proposed the idea that hot air could be replaced with a lighter than air gas; in this case, hydrogen. His unmanned silk and taffeta balloon rose into the air and travelled 16 km before landing in the village of Gonesse. The race was on to see who could first put a man into the sky aboard a balloon. Geologist and scientist, Barthélemy Faujas de Saint-Fond, initially launched a subscription with the public and gathered the necessary funds to demonstrate the experiment.



**AA-7 Price: \$130.00 Year of Issue: 1983**

Bronze Medal, Paris (France) 1783-1983

Diameter 52.0 mm - Monnaie de Paris - Paris Mint

Front: JOSE.ET ETIEN. MONTGOLFIER|POUR AVOIR RENDU L'AIR NAVIGABLE;

Bicentennial of the First Human Flight -

Superimposed portraits of the Montgolfier brothers

Reverse: AUDACIA FELIX.|AERA PERMEARUNT

XXI.NOV.L.F.DARLANDES ET F.PILATRE. I.DEC.J.A.C.CHARLES ET M.N.ROBERT ANNO MDCCLXXXIII;

Two balloons in the air, one of which has a figure waving a flag. The balloon in the foreground, trailing a plume of smoke, is the Montgolfier hot air balloon; the other balloon in the distance is the hydrogen gas balloon built by Jacques Charles.

Commemorating the First Manned Balloon Flights. Dually-dated 1783 *in Roman numerals*. AUDACIA FELIX (*a satisfying gambit*), manned hot air (Montgolfière) and hydrogen (Charlière) balloons in flight; in five lines in exergue, AERA PERMEARUNT XXI. NOV./L. F. DARLANDES ET F.

PILATRE./I. DEC. J. A. C. CHARLES/ET M. N. ROBERT/ANNO

MDCCLXXXIII (*they have pierced the heavens on the 21st of November (François Laurent d'Arlandes and Jean-François Pilâtre) and the 1st of December (Jacques Alexandre César Charles and Nicolas-Louis Robert) in the year 1783.*

**AA-8 Price: \$16.00 USD Year of Issue: 1983**

Coin < 10 Francs (200th Anniversary of the Montgolfier Balloon)

Country: France

Series: 1982~1998 - Circulation Commemoratives

Issued on: 1983

Last issue date: 1983

Distribution: Circulating Commemorative

Weight: 10 grams

Diameter: 26 mm

Composition: Nickel Brass

Mint: Monnaie de Paris, Paris, France

Denomination: 10F - French franc

Mintage: 3,000,972

Edge Variety: Lettered

Description: Edge Lettering "LIBERTE EGALITE FRATERNITE"

**AA-9 Price: \$135.00                      Year:1973**

First Annual Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta Limited Edition  
Sterling Silver Pin - February 11 - 17, 1973.

Inscription on the back of the pin box "This sterling silver replica of Montgolfier's Balloon which gave man his first flight in 1783 is presented to you in appreciation of your support of the First World Hot Air Ballooning Championships and the Albuquerque International Balloon First February 11 - 17, 1973."

This beautiful Bell sterling silver pin displays a replica of Montgolfier's Balloon which gave man his first flight in 1783. The pin was presented in appreciation of support of the first world hot air ballooning championships and the Albuquerque International Balloon fiesta February 11-17, 1973.

This beautiful balloon pin has a tie-tack pin back with chain.

This pin is in MINT, NEVER BEEN USED OR DISPLAYED condition.

**AA-10 Price: \$180.00                      Year:1933**

Tin Badge/Pin marking the 150th Anniversary of the invention of the balloon.

The inscription on this pin reads FRERES MONTGOLFIER - ANNONAY with the dates 1783 and 1933, marking the 150th Anniversary of the invention of the balloon. Annonay is the birthplace of the Montgolfier brothers and is the place where the first demonstration of a hot air balloon took place on June 4, 1783.

This badge is extremely rare and is rather thin, apparently being stamped out of tin. It shows some wear and is covered in a nice dull patina that reflects its age. On the back, there was probably once a clasp of some kind that has broken off from where it was attached by solder or a spot weld.

See below for a brief history of the Montgolfier balloon experiments.

The Montgolfier brothers, Joseph-Michel and Jacques-Étienne, were French pioneer developers of the hot-air balloon who conducted the first untethered flights. Modifications and improvements of the basic Montgolfier design were incorporated in the construction of larger balloons that, in later years, opened the way to exploration of the upper atmosphere.

Joseph and Étienne were 2 of the 16 children of Pierre Montgolfier, whose prosperous paper factories in the small town of Vidalon, near Annonay, in southern France, ensured the financial support of their balloon experiments. While carrying on their father's paper business, they maintained their interest in scientific experimentation.

In 1782 they discovered that heated air, when collected inside a large lightweight paper or fabric bag, caused the bag to rise into the air. (According to one, possibly apocryphal, story, the brothers took inspiration from watching Joseph's wife's skirts as they billowed in the kitchen from the heat of a charcoal burner being used to dry laundry.)

The Montgolfiers made the first public demonstration of their discovery on June 4, 1783, at the marketplace in Annonay. They filled their 35-foot- (10.5-metre-) diameter balloon with heated air by burning straw and wool under the opening at the bottom of the bag. The balloon rose into the air about 3,000 feet (1,000 metres), remained there some 10 minutes, and then settled to the ground more than a mile and a half from where it rose.

The Montgolfiers traveled to Paris and then to Versailles, where they repeated the experiment with a larger balloon on Sept. 19, 1783, sending a sheep, a rooster, and a duck aloft as passengers. The balloon floated for about 8 minutes and landed safely about 2 miles (3.2 kilometres) from the launch site.

On Nov. 21, 1783, the first manned untethered flight took place in a Montgolfier balloon with Pilatre de Rozier and François Laurent, marquis d'Arlandes, as passengers. The balloon sailed over Paris for 5.5 miles (9 kilometres) in about 25 minutes. The two brothers were honoured by the French Académie des Sciences. They published books on aeronautics and continued their scientific careers. Joseph invented a calorimeter and the hydraulic ram, and Étienne developed a process for manufacturing vellum.