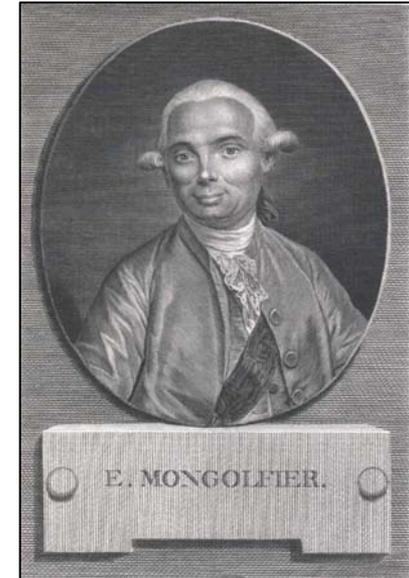


Today in Math History...

-15 November 1783

At the Paris Academie des Sciences, Etienne de Montgolfier discusses in mathematical terms the problem of navigating balloons.



The Montgolfier Brothers constructed a globe-shaped balloon of sackcloth with three thin layers of paper inside. On 4 June 1783 they flew this craft as their first public demonstration at Annonay in front of a group of dignitaries from the Etats particuliers. Its flight covered 2 km, lasted 10 minutes, and had an estimated altitude of 1600 - 2000 m.