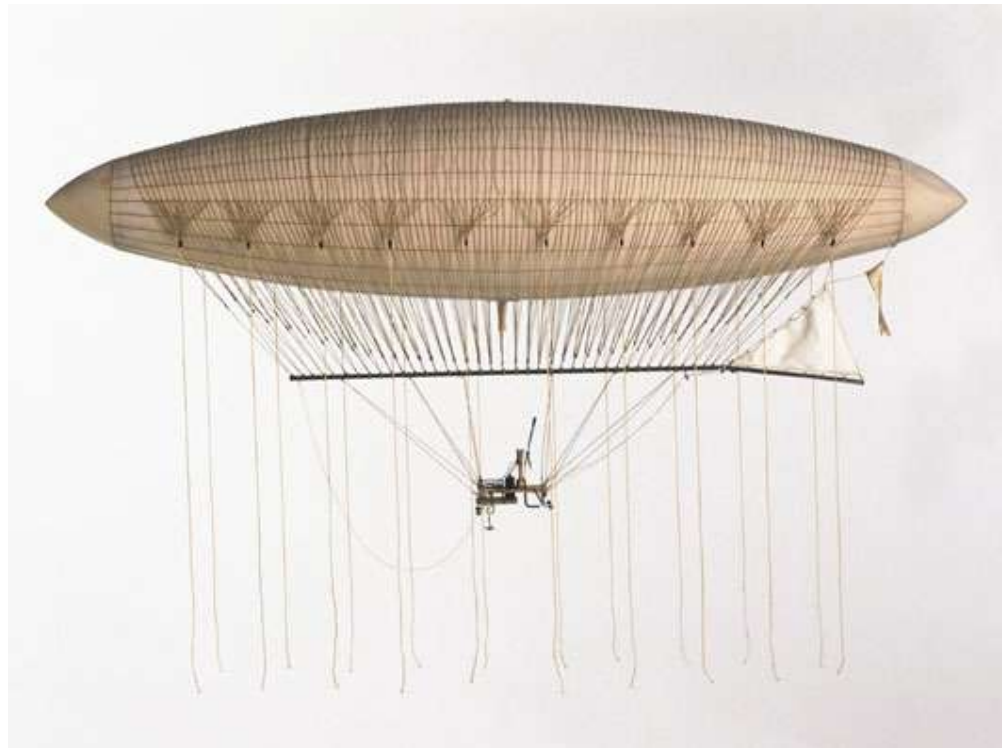




SCIENCE MUSEUM OF LONDON

The Giffard Airship, 1852



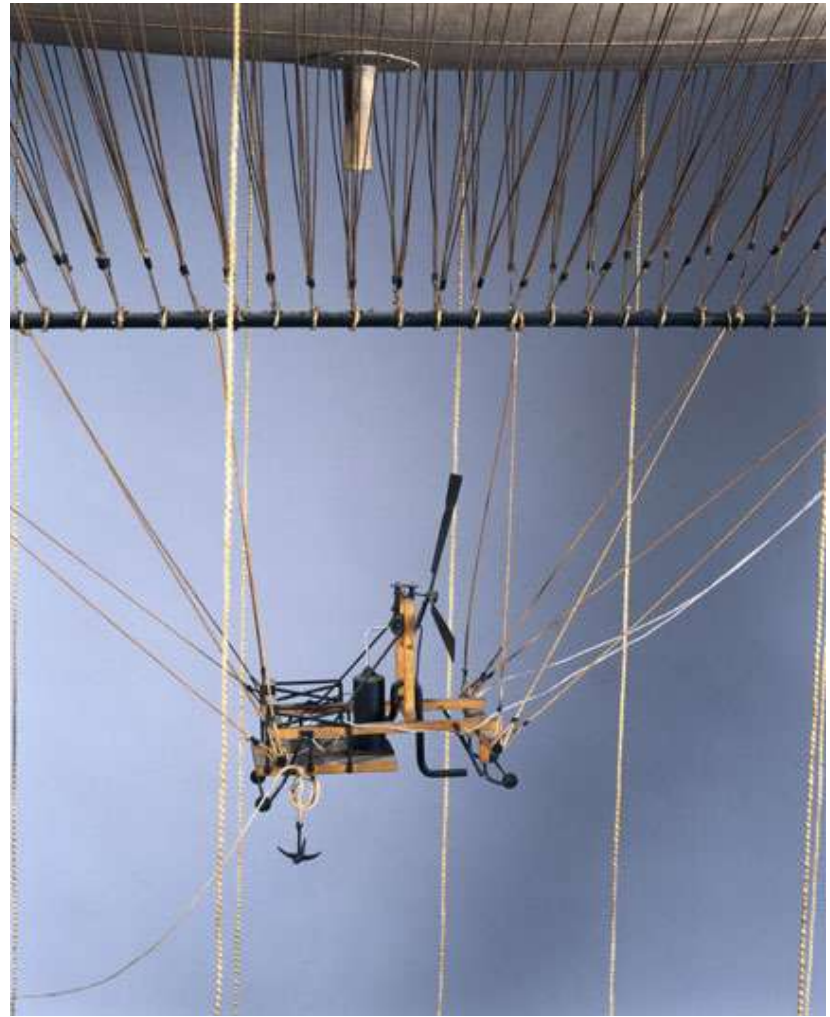
Model (scale 1:50). This dirigible was used in the first successful application of mechanical power to flight. It was constructed by the French designer Henri Giffard. On 24th September 1852 Giffard ascended from the Hippodrome in Paris and landed at Trappes some 17 miles away. Although this flight was counted as a success, the airship lacked the power to navigate a circle against the wind and return to its starting point.

Credit: Science Museum/Science & Society Picture Library



Detail of the car of the dirigible used in the first successful application of mechanical power to flight. The power unit was a single cylinder steam engine constructed by the French designer Henri Giffard.

Credit: Science Museum/Science & Society Picture Library



Detail of control car..

Credit: Science Museum/Science & Society Picture Library