

Spelterini early life

Spelterini was born in Bazenhaid in the Toggenburg area in Switzerland as **Eduard Schweizer**. [1] His father, Sigmund Schweizer, was an innkeeper. [2] When he was eight years old, the family reportedly moved to northern Italy, to a place near the Swiss-Italian border in the province of Como. Eduard is said to have attended the schools in Lugano. [3] At the age of eighteen, Eduard allegedly went first to Milan and then to Paris to be trained as an opera singer. During this time, he chose the name "Spelterini", because it sounded fancier than "Schweizer". [3] His singing career was cut short by a severe case of pneumonia. In any case, Spelterini turned up in the mid-1870s in Paris, and in 1877 he was licensed by the *Académie d'Aérostation météorologique de France* as a balloon pilot. [2]

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Ascents around 1877



Spelterini crossing the Alps in a Gas Balloon.

Europe and Moscow. Spelterini turned southwards, making ascents in Bucharest, Saloniki,

1) French and Swiss pioneer aeronauts and aviator photo-postcards & card:

Fourteen Balloon Aeronauts from the Siege of Paris (1870/1) in one photo-postcard (press 1919 Aviator Leganeux photo-postcard circulated, Gambeta French politician escaping the Paris on a balloon (1950) and Italo-Swiss. Cap. Spelterini crossing the Alps in a gas balloon (press 1950)

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1) French balloon aeronauts, and aviator pioneers Italo- Swiss balloon voyager

a) France. The Siege of Paris (1870/1) 14 aeronauts in one B&W original photo-postcard printed (pres 1910) with an 1870 negative (An unique and extremely rare postcard from this fascinating historic period), and a more recent Leon Gambetta politician escape (pc) using a balloon during the Paris Siege.

b) France. Legagneux. Sepia color photo postcard (pres 1910) with the following text: PAU (aeroport) Aviation. Nos Aviateurs .G. Legagneux (marked with a cross) entre des Pilots du "Blériot".

"Legagneux: détenteur actuel de l'altitude et de la distance. Essais exécutés à Pau et pleinement réussis: 3200 m. de hauteur e; 515 Km de distance .C.H." This photo-postcard of the famous French aviator has never been seen before or published. It was dispatched from Pau apparently in 1919 to a friend in France.