



Prop Art

Mantel not included

In retirement, many propellers become art above a pilot's mantel. Lacking mantel space, EAA displays its fine blades in many places. This particular grouping hangs in the EAA AirVenture Museum's Restoration Shop.

On top is a Unico No. 2436 RH (Navy No. 16) retrieved from one of the five Douglas World Cruisers built to circumnavigate the globe in 1924. Below it is a Sensenich prop, marked 90HSP90, believed to have propelled a Howard DGE-18K during World War II. Next is a 144-inch toothpick-shaped Fahlin D309 prop, reportedly manufactured for a blimp

powered by a Warner 145 engine.

What purpose the Gardner four-blade prop, with the eight-bolt steel hub, served is unknown, but it was probably a test club used to run in new engines. The Hartzell constant-speed prop below it probably came from a Lycoming O-320, and the Lycoming-Smith P-220 controllable-pitch prop that follows once spun its steel blades on a Lycoming R-680 engine. Finally, in 1920 the American Propeller Co. or Baltimore made its Paragon prop for the Hall-Scott L-6, possibly in a de Havilland DH-4.

-Kathleen L. Witman