The SS United States' Preserved Propellers

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Did you know?

The SS *United States* was fitted with four propellers — two four-bladed and two five-bladed. This configuration was tested and selected for its superior hydrodynamic performance, and the design was overseen by the pioneering Gibbs & Cox female engineer Elaine Kaplan.

All of the propellers were manufactured from manganese bronze. Each weighed an astounding 60,000 pounds.

Did you also know that four of the ship’s propellers have been preserved and can be viewed by the public?
One of the SS United States’ five-blade propellers was incorporated in the Mariners’ Museum’s entrance wall in 2008. The 500-foot long, 8-foot tall wall was designed by Carlton Abbott & Partners of Williamsburg, VA.

The propeller rests upon one of the ship’s original 63-foot long propeller shafts.
American Merchant Marine Museum
300 Steamboat Road
Kings Road, NY 11024

The American Merchant Marine Museum received one of the SS United States’ four-blade propellers in 1993.
The State University of New York Maritime College also received a propeller from the SS United States in 1993. The five-blade propeller was brought here in honor of the ship’s last master, Leroy Alexanderson.
Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum
Pier 86
W 46th St and 12th Ave
New York, NY 10036

Found at the entrance to the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum is one of the SS United States’ four-blade propellers.