



FOKKER 'SPIDER' (SPIN)

In October 1910, young Anthony Fokker took his first step on the road to fame in aviation by making his first flying contraption nicknamed the 'Spider', built in an empty airship shed at Baarden-Oos in Germany. After a number of modifications and mishaps, he finally produced an automatically stable aircraft, the 'Spider' II, on which he taught himself to fly. On May 16th, 1911, he obtained the F.A.I. Pilot License Nr. 88. After modifying this Mk. II model by introducing the so-called wing warping for longitudinal control, he started making fame with this aircraft and his daring aerobatics. The 50 hp Argus-powered 'Spider' became the prototype of many successful aircraft, directly derived from this early type, before and during the first World War, and was destroyed in the original 'Spider' was taken to Germany during the second World War, and was destroyed in the Zeughaus in Berlin during an air raid. At the occasion of Fokker's 25th pilot's anniversary, a replica was built in 1956. This aircraft survived the war and is now on permanent exhibit in the National Aeronautical Museum at Schiphol Airport, Amsterdam.

The construction of the Fokker 'Spider' was simple and rugged: a fuselage consisting of wooden booms and fabric-covered steeltube and bamboo surfaces. The wing was braced by means of piano wires fixed to steeltube turnets. To avoid summersaulting the undercarriage was provided with wooden 'skis'.

