

“A kaleidoscope will reveal new, beautiful patterns – but only if we lift it towards the light and look properly”

Ulla Willner

While conducting experiments involving the vibrations and bending of light waves, Sir David Brewster unintentionally invented the kaleidoscope. Already a well-known and highly respected pioneer in his field, Brewster continued to take intellectual risks and test innovative ideas.

An expert in the field of optics, Brewster was well known in the scientific community for his invention of the polyzonal lens, an invention of unequalled power at the time that created beams of brilliant light that could be seen far into the night. This lens was the precursor to the lens used in lighthouses. He developed a calculation known as Brewster's Angle, which is used when adjusting radio signals and building powerful microscopes. The calculation of this angle is essential in the development of fiber optics, lasers, and to the study of meteorology and cosmology.

Brewster's kaleidoscope was an instant success. It provided an understanding of the power of imagination, of how light, color, and motion catch the eye, and how these fuel the creative process. The kaleidoscope represents a commitment to continuous growth and a flexibility in thinking that resulted in a timeless innovation.