Chromatropes

Among crank-activated slides, chromatropes (a made-up term using the ancient Greek words for “turning colors”) projected on the screen large patterns of colors that appeared to move. The slides were made by placing glass slides with different painted patterns on top of each other.

In Newton and Co.’s ship at sea, one glass slide depicts waves, a second depicts waves and a ship, and a third depicts the sea and sky. The cranking mechanism causes the slides to move in an oscillating motion, making the boat appear to sail across the water. In Carpenter’s and Westley’s Artificial Fireworks, an impressive kaleidoscopic illusion of moving colors occurs.