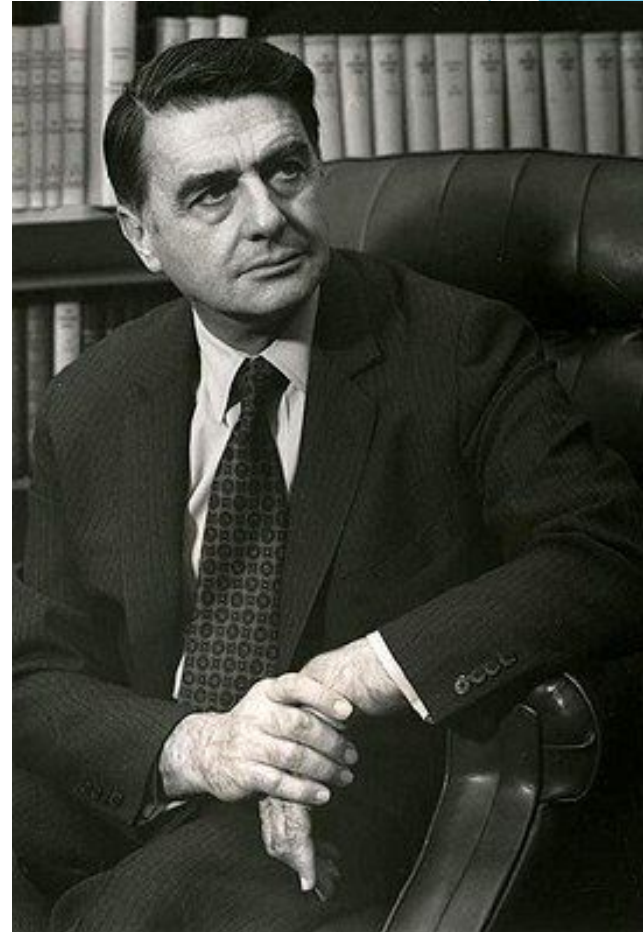


Edwin Herbert Land



Edwin Herbert Land—
American scientist and
inventor, founder of
Polaroid Corporation. He
was the first to use the
principles of polarization
in many consumer
products and invented the
single-stage photo
process. The number of
patents received for
inventions — 535 — was
second only to Thomas
Edison.



His grandparents Solomonovich (of Jewish origin) emigrated to the United States from the Russian Empire in the 1880s. From an early age, Edwin Land experimented with light, kaleidoscopes, and stereoscopes, which allowed him to develop and construct the world's first polarizing material for commercial use as early as 1929, while a student at Harvard University.

In 1932, Land co-founded a company with Wheelwright, a Harvard University Professor and descendant of a wealthy family, to commercialize material for sunglasses and camera filters. Subsequently, there were other investors.



After leaving Polaroid, he founded the Rowland Institute of science in 1980, which conducted research in biology, physics, and chemistry. After his death, all his papers and notes were destroyed by his personal assistant.

