

ANDREW SETH PRINGLE-PATTISON was born Andrew Seth on 20 December, 1856 in Edinburgh. His father, Smith Kinmont Seth, the son of a farmer from Fife, was a bank clerk in the head office of the Commercial Bank of Scotland. His mother, Margaret, was the daughter of Andrew Little a farmer from Berwickshire. Seth's elder brother died in infancy, and his younger brother James Seth was his colleague at Edinburgh University for twenty one years from 1898 to 1919.

Seth was educated at the Royal High School, Edinburgh before going on to the University in 1873. He was influenced by Campbell Fraser, and was a contemporary of D. G. Ritchie, W. R. Sorley, and R. B. Haldane, with whom he became a life long friend. He graduated with first class honours in classics and philosophy in 1878, and was awarded a Hibbert travel scholarship to study for two years in Berlin, Jena and Göttingen. Among his teachers in Germany were R. H. Lotze, to whom he frequently refers in his writings. In 1880 Seth became class assistant to Campbell Fraser, succeeding W. R. Sorley, during which time he also wrote for The Scotsman and in 1883 he was appointed professor of logic and philosophy at the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire at Cardiff. From there he took up the chair of logic, rhetoric and metaphysics at St. Andrews University where he was succeeded by Henry Jones in 1911 on achieving his ambition of succeeding his old professor, Campbell Fraser, to the chair of logic and metaphysics at Edinburgh. He was awarded honorary degrees by St. Andrews University (1892), Princeton (1898), Durham (1902), and Edinburgh (1919). He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1904., and was invited to deliver the Gifford Lectures at Aberdeen (1912-13) and Edinburgh (1921-3). He retired in 1919.

In 1884 Seth got married in Berlin where he had his future wife Eva Stropp of Borgislavitz, Silesia, as a student. They had five children, four sons and a daughter. The youngest son was killed in action on the Somme in 1916, and the eldest daughter died in infancy. In 1898, on the death of Mrs Pringle Pattison, Seth was informed that as a promising young man and distant relative of her husband he was named in her will to succeed to the family fortune and estate of The Haining, Selkirk in the Scottish Borders, on

condition that he the adopted her surname. He died at The Haining on 1st September, 1931, and is buried in Edinburgh.

Biographical: The Times, 2 September, 1931; The Scotsman, 2 September, 1931; John Laird, 'Pattison, Andrew Seth Pringle- (1856-1931)', Dictionary of national Biography 1931-41; E. N. Merrington, 'A Scottish Thinker: Andrew Seth Pringle-Pattison', The Australasian Journal of Psychology and Philosophy, ix (1931); J. B. Baillie, 'Pringle-Pattison as Philosopher', Proceedings of the British Academy (1931); A. Seth Pringle-Pattison, Balfour Lectures on Realism: with a Memoir by G. F. Barbour (Edinburgh, Blackwood, 1933).

Principal works: The Development from Kant to Hegel (London, Williams and Norgate, 1882); Hegelianism and Personality (Edinburgh, Blackwood, 1887); Man's Place in the Cosmos (Edinburgh, Blackwood, 1897); Studies in the Philosophy of Religion (Oxford, Clarendon Press, 1930); The Balfour Lectures on Realism (Edinburgh, Blackwood, 1933).