

Taken from English Writing Masters by Ambrose Heal

William Addy (b. 1618, d. 1695?)

William Addy (b. 1618, d. 1695?)- William Addy is best known as the author of a system of shorthand, founded upon that of Jeremiah Rich. On the title-pages of his books he describes himself as "Writing Master". A paper contributed to the Yorkshire Archaeological journal, Vol. XXVII by S. O. Addy, tells us that he was born in 1618, the third son of John Addy, a tanner and parish clerk of Wath-upon-Dearne. The profession of writing-master ran in the family, for mention is made of one Sir John Addy,* chaplain and writing-master, of Rotherham, who died in 1557.

According to the Term Catalogues, William Addy's first shorthand book, A Comment upon Mr. Creche's Character (the entry should no doubt read "Mr. Rich's Charactery"), was not published until 1684, and the first edition of his Stenographia, or the Art of Short Writing, probably appeared in the same year. From these dates one may assume that Addy had practised as a writing-master for the greater part of his life before he worked out his system of shorthand. Three years later (i.e. 1687) his Holy Bible ... in Shorthand was published. To this was prefixed his "Vera Effigies" engraved by J. Sturt after S. Barker. Mr S. O. Addy tells us, and he is no doubt correct, that William Addy died in 1695, but his name is included in Samuel Pepys' "List of Surviving Maister-Pen-Men... 1699" where he is described as a "disciple of Mr. Story" and his abode is given as in "Talbot Court in Fenchurch".