I was recently presented with Unitotolinearmultisyllabification, a booklet limited to 50 copies written by Alfred Lubran and published by the Narbulla Agency of London in 1976. (Did you notice that Narbulla is a reversal of Al Lubran?) This book is devoted to long words -- most well-known, but a few new to me. Three passages featuring the latter are given below.

Francois Rabelais (c.1494 to c.1553) the French satirist, in 1532 joined a company of scholars and poets at Lyons, a noted intellectual centre, where they gathered round the great printer Gryphius. Here, with the avant garde, he wrote controversial books which were to make him famous. Wisdom and nonsense were set side by side. With great gusto he used neologisms by the score. Often he mocked medieval pretensions by misusing words entertainingly -- like the title of one of his books: Antipericatametaparhengedamphicribulationes. In the translation of his works by Sir Thomas Urquhart in 1653 and by Pierre Motteux in 1693 there appears the following passage (from Chapter XV of Book 2, Pantagruel): "They were not satisfied with thus poachirig, black and blueing, and morrambouzevezengouzonequenorgasacbaquevezinemaffreIiding my poor eyes... Further on: "What, Mr. Manhound, was it not enough thus to have morcrocastezasteverestegrigeligoscpapopondrillated us all in our upper members with your botched mittens, but you must also apply such mordergrippiplatabirofreluchhamburelurecaquelurintonkacals on the shin-bones with the hard tops and extremities of your cobbled shoes." Obviously these are intended to be witty nonsense words.

All over the world there are records of people with exceptionally long names. In Burma, for instance, there was King Siritaribhavanadityapauaraanditasudhammarajamahadhaptinarapatithu. Subjects were compelled to pronounce the whole name whenever they were allowed to address him -- so states Pe Maung in his book "The Glass Palace Chronicle of the King of Burma". R. L. Ripley (in one of his "Believe it or Not" books) records the name of a Sultan of Jogjakarta, in Indonesia, as Sultan Hamengkoebowoenosenopalinglongaburraachmansaydinpantotagoodev. He also mentions the name of a Honolulu lady, Miss Kalani Kaumehahakahikikalanakawahinekula. Samuel Langhorne Clemens (Mark Twain) reported c.1880 that a Holy Man in Benares, India, had 109 names, the last of which had 58 letters. The Holy Man wrote his names as follows: Sri 108 Matpara-mahansapai...
With the death of Juan Bautista de Toledo, in 1532, the intellectual atmosphere in the University of Alcalá, known as the House of Wisdom, began to change. Here, the painting of Christ Pantocrator was destroyed, and the title of one of the buildings of the University was changed to the "Real y Pontificia Facultad de Nación". In the words of the historian of the University, the painting was "a treasure of the University, a symbol of the University's intellectual and spiritual heritage."

In the following centuries, the University continued to be a center of intellectual and cultural activity, attracting scholars and students from all over Europe. However, the rapid expansion of the University in the 19th century, accompanied by the rise of new universities and the changing political landscape, led to a decline in the reputation of the University of Alcalá. By the end of the 20th century, the University had returned to its roots, reasserting its importance as a center of learning and research.

The University of Alcalá is located in the city of Alcalá de Henares, in the region of Madrid, Spain. It was founded in 1508 by Pope Pius II, and has since been a center of education and research, with a strong tradition of excellence in the arts, sciences, and humanities.

In conclusion, the University of Alcalá has a storied history, with a rich tradition of excellence in education and research. Its location in the heart of the Spanish capital makes it a unique and valuable resource for students and scholars from around the world.