LONG WORDS

DARRYL FRANCIS
London, England

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: Antipericatametaparhengedamphicribationes. 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 morrambouzevezengouzequenorgasacbaquevezinemaffreIiding my poor eyes..." Further on: "What, Mr. Manhound, was it not enough thus to have morcrocastezasteverestegrelligioscppapondrrillated us all in our upper mem-

All over the world there are records of people with exceptionally long names. In Burma, for instance, there was King Siritaribhavanadityapauaraanditasudhammarajmahadhipatinarapatisithu. 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 Hamengkoebowosoporlingalongaburraachmansaydinpantotagoodev. He also mentions the name of a Honolulu lady, Miss Kalani Kaumehahakahikikikalanyakawahinekuhao. 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
In 1920 there was a resident of Buenos Aires, in the Argentine, known as Senor Don Juan Turriberrigorrigoieroetabericooechea. The 13th and last Dalai Lama, before the advent of the Communist Chinese occupation was Thub-bstan ryga-mlho (1876 to 1933). In 1904 he visited the "Living Buddha", Rje-btsun dam-pa, at Urga (now Ulan Bator) in Mongolia, when fleeing from the British Mission to Lhasa. Tibetans did not address the Dalai Lama as such but referred to him as Yid-bzhin-nor-ba (Wish-granting Jewel) or Rgyal-ba Rinpo-che (Great Precious Conqueror). In like manner the living Buddha was referred to in eulogistic terms as Ahwangloputsangputanachiatach-ichiawangchuchuehlelangschieh.

This 310 lettered monstrosity is a type of compound word used by some monastic authors of the Middle Ages when writing about superstitious practices:

orniscopytheobibliopyschocrystarroscoaerogenethliometeoro-astrhoeroanthropoeichthypoysiderochpnomyoaeletryophio-botanopegodydrochabddorthealoeuralphitalomolybdodcero-beloaxinococinodactyllogeolithopossoschepcatoprotephra-oneirochiroonychodactylaristichoxxogelasgcagastreyrocero-bletonooenoscapulinianac

Its literal translation applies to certain persons who practice divination by interpreting phenomena relating to: "birds, oracles, Bible, ghosts, crystal gazing, shadows, air appearances, birth stars, meteors, winds, mysterious manifestations, entrails of humans and fishes, fire, red-hot irons, altar smoke, mice, grain picking by rooster, snakes, herbs, fountains, water, wands, dough, metal, barley, salt, lead, dies, arrows, hatchet balance, sieve, ring suspension, random dots, precious stones, pebbles, pebble heaps, mirrors, ash writing, dreams, palmistry, nail rays, finger rings, numbers, book passages, name letterings, laughing manners, trilokism, circle walking, wax, susceptibility to hidden springs, wine and shoulder blades".

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