LANGUAGE CORNER: Ask George ! March 2009.

Honorificabilitudinitatibus !

For several years now I've been trying to finish a book. Never succeeding. It is simply called \underline{e} , and is made up entirely of eMails... hundreds of them ... far too many for me.

The story stretches over 15 days, & each day carries about 54-55 eMails, making a total of 800. I counted them all most carefully! But reading them through is quite another matter. For eMails are conceived, devised and specifically made to be skimmed through in a jiffy... and that I'm not good at at all at all! Anybody who had ever played SCRABBLE with me can certainly remember that!

Can then anybody help me? Simply by telling me the why & wherefore of this 342-page piece of fiction. And if no single person can undertake the effort, perhaps the collective effort of a book-club—there are now so many of them—could do the trick... Who knows?

P.S. The title of this little review is the celebrated absolutely longest word in Shakespeare: any educated Brit is sure to be familiar with it. I only mention this here for the sole benefit of the much younger generation. ("Honorificabilitudinitatibus" is indeed the longest Shakespearean word, and it appears in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Act V, Scene 1, line 44.)

P.P.S. The novel <u>e</u> is written by <u>matt</u>. beaumont, and is subtitled "The novel of liars, lunch and lost knickers". It was published by HarperCollins in the year 2000. It lasts 342 pages for £6.99.

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