

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY

The Agassiz Museum



HARVARD UNIVERSITY  
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June 2nd, 1992

Marc S. Boguski  
National Center for Biotechnology Information  
National Library of Medicine  
Building 38-A, Room 8S-810  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20894

Dear Dr. Boguski,

Many thanks for your most interesting commentary on Jurassic Park. Your story is far more interesting than mine -- and a bit disappointing to boot, for he could have been far more clever about his chosen sequence -- but, anyway, here's another: I met Michael Crichton at a meeting recently (at 6 feet 8 inches tall, he is an imposing figure and quite as big as many of his creatures). I said to him: "I am sure a thousand people have pointed this out to you already, but just in case, why did you put a Cretaceous dinosaur on the cover of Jurassic Park?" (Tyrannosaurus, source of his cover design, was nowhere to be seen until many million years after the Jurassic). Of course, the point doesn't matter that much; his novel permits reconstruction of dinosaurs from all ages. In any case, he looked back at me in great embarrassment and said: "Oh my God, I never thought of that. We were just fooling around with cover designs and I never even considered the ages." I must say that I was quite pleased by his response; he didn't brush off the comment and seemed quite concerned about this minor lapse, although the point is scarcely very important.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen Jay Gould".

Stephen Jay Gould  
Professor of Geology

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