

The following message from Dr. Lucas to Dr. Dzik was originally sent as an e-mail message and has been pasted into word. I have italicized taxon names, indented paragraphs, and removed the signature, but the message is otherwise unaltered.

Dear Dr. Dzik,

In response to your message, I wish to address what really happened.

1. Nobody at your Institute told me I could not publish on the specimens I studied.
2. The normal procedure at museums and collections is to inform researchers when they are studying the collection what they can and cannot publish on.
3. The specimens my collaborators and I published on had either been published on before and/or were on public display in your museum. Why would you put fossils on display if they were not available for study and publication?

So, why did you let me study the fossils and not tell me that you didn't want me to publish on them?

Why are you claiming now that I should have contacted you after leaving Poland for permission to publish on already published fossils and fossils on public display?

I have spent the last 30 years working in hundreds of fossil collections in North America, Europe, Asia, and South America . In all those collections, if I was allowed to study fossils that were not to be published, I was told while studying them not to publish on them. And, when I was told not to publish, I did not.

I apologize to you for any role I played in this unfortunate misunderstanding. I urge you in the future to make clear to all collection visitors the expectations and policies of your collection.

Sincerely,

Spencer G. Lucas