

The image above was taken at a wonderful Natural Science Museum in La Plata, Argentina, which I was led to believe housed the world's largest herbivore dinosaur, the Argentinosaurus. It didn't, but a few interesting anecdotes related to that visit are worth mentioning.

Does the original matter?

Written by Pedro Meyer

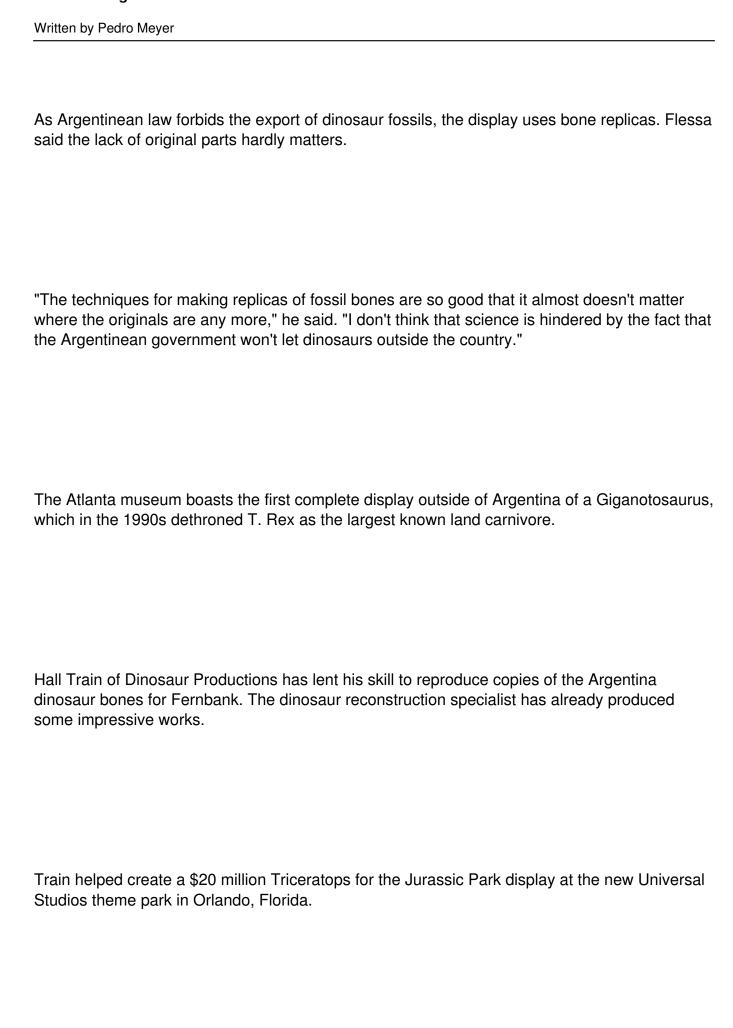
This plant eater, weighed in at 100 tons, with 130-140 feet in length (40-42 meters) and dates back some 100 million years ago. A spate of mysterious monster finds has placed Argentina on the paleontology map in recent years. Fossilized discoveries over the past decade include Giganotosaurus, the largest dinosaur carnivore; Argentinosaurus, the largest herbivore; and other bones that suggest an even longer species. Thousands of eggs dating back 80 million years litter the land, a discovery that includes the first known impressions of dinosaur embryo skins. "We already recorded that this egg fossil horizon extends more than 20 kilometers. That is the largest dinosaur-nesting site in the world," said Coria, a native Patagonian and paleontologist at the Carmen Funes Museum.

The dinosaur heritage of Argentina may be richer than that of the United States and Canada combined. But natural history programs in the south lack the financial power of their counterparts in the north. Some Argentinean museums must leave dinosaur bones outside and behind their buildings, lacking the money to display them.

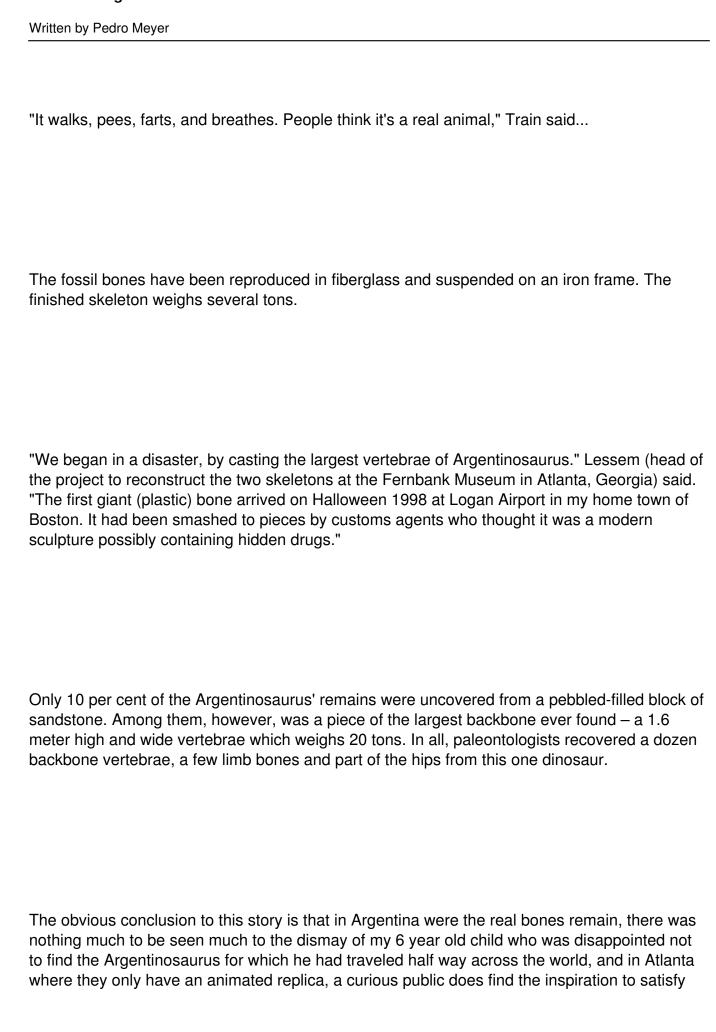
"They (Argentineans) have the bones, the Americans have the money," Flessa (former president of the Paleontology Society) said.

Natural history museums in New York, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Alberta, Canada, have sponsored expeditions throughout Argentina, working together with institutions in Buenos Aires and Patagonia.

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their imagination, by looking at a fiberglass representation that "walks, pees, farts and breathes".
The Victoria and Albert Museum

