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Original Article

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FACIAL RECONSTRUCTION OF HOMININS OF THE SECOND HALF OF THE MIDDLE PLEISTOCENE PERIOD FROM CHINA (HUALONGDONG, JINNIUSHAN, DALI, HARBIN)

The work is devoted to the facial reconstruction and study of hominins of the second half of the Middle Pleistocene period in China: the skulls from the Hualongdong, Jinniushan, Dali, and Harbin sites. Contour and graphic reconstructions were performed using the “Appearance Algorithm” facial reconstruction program, and verbal portraits summarizing the specific features of each skull were composed. The finds date back to the Middle Pleistocene period (around 330–146 kyr). The study revealed a significant similarity between the four finds. All four individuals are undoubtedly pre-modern hominins, distinct from Homo sapiens. The portraits of individuals from Dali, Jinniushan and Harbin are similar to each other, while the one from Hualongdong is somewhat different, which may be explained by his younger age, greater antiquity, or individual variability. The study suggests that they belong to the same monophyletic group. The possibility of the existence of a distinctive hominin lineage in Asia, which may represent Denisovans, is not excluded, which requires further evidence, including new genetic investigations.

Keywords: *China, anthropological facial reconstruction, hominins, Middle Pleistocene of Asia, Hualongdong, Jinniushan, Dali, Harbin*

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