Comparing the Eyes Depicted in Japanese Portraits of Beautiful Women: The Meiji and Modern Periods

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The following comments pertain to the article “Comparing the eyes depicted in Japanese portraits of beautiful women: the Meiji and modern periods” [1]. I am writing this comment because I would like to obtain some information regarding the materials and methods used in this study.

In general, like the photographs, the portraits are drawn at an oblique angle; thereafter, the anteroposterior view is relatively rare. In this article, the face in Fig. 2 is a frontal view; however, the face in Fig. 1 is approximately a three-fourths view. In my experience, all faces of the Japanese bijin-ga of the Edo dynasty were drawn at an oblique view [2]. Lee and Thomas measured the same distances from 29 Meiji portraits and 36 modern portraits. I would like to know how many of these portraits were frontal view and how many were oblique view. To find the variations in the size of the eyes, the authors divided each distance by the corneal diameter and calculated the ratios. How did they standardize the measured distances and ratios in the oblique-view portraits?

The eye height (3 in Fig. 3)-to-corneal diameter ratio of the Meiji bijin-ga (mean = 0.62 ± 0.15) was significantly smaller than that of the modern bijin-ga (mean = 0.82 ± 0.18) ($p = 0.000$). The eyebrow-to-upper lid distance (4 in Fig. 3)-to-corneal diameter ratio of the Meiji bijin-ga (mean = 2.21 ± 0.83) was significantly greater than that of the modern bijin-ga (mean = 1.36 ± 0.78) ($p = 0.000$). I would really like to know whether there is a significant difference in the distance from the eyebrow to lower lid margin, which is the sum of eye height (3 in Fig. 3) and eyebrow-to-upper lid distance (4 in Fig. 3), between the Meiji portraits and modern portraits. If there are no significant differences between the two groups, the result of this article will be more valuable.

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