

GENETICS

FROM MISUNDERSTANDING TO DOGMA

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The [Nature Reviews Genetics Timeline](#) features an interesting story on human chromosome numbers. Theophilus Painter in his 1921 Science paper wrote: "In my own materials the counts range from 45 to 48 apparent chromosomes" which was interpreted for obvious reasons to be 46 or 48 (Painter probably saw a banded chr1 as 2 different ones). Text-books then reported 48 human chromosomes for 3 decades until the classical paper of Tijo in 1956 paper who confirmed 46 human chromosomes. Gartler believes that Tijos unusual background have made him likely to question authority. Yea, yea.

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