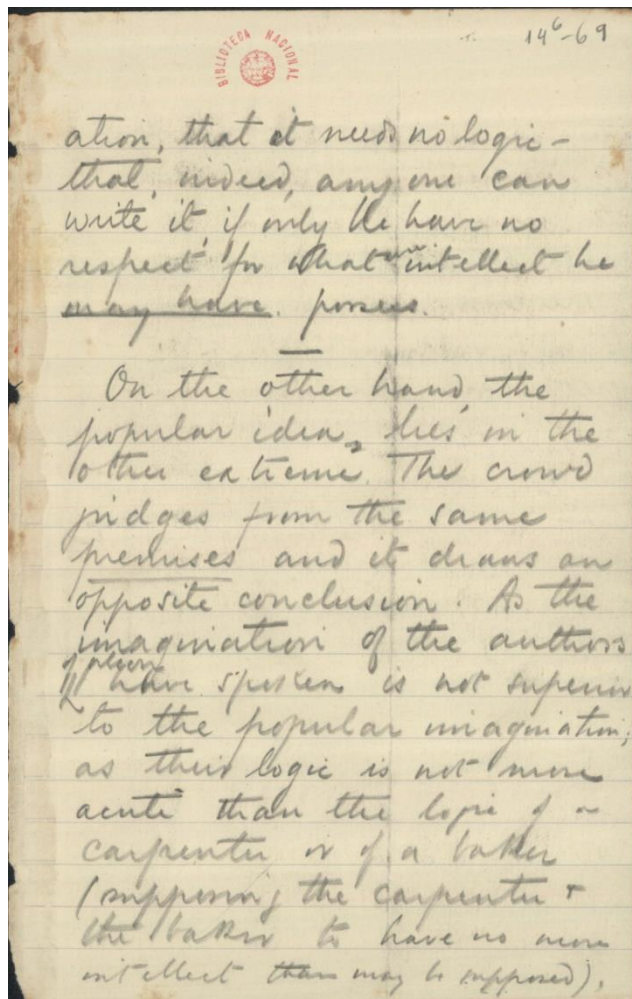


The great merit of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, in the tales of Sherlock Holmes, is this limitation of ~~per~~ possibility - this arrival at true individuality - though but external individuality.

A very erroneous idea has great acceptance - namely that a detective story is but a literary composition of an inferior kind. Critics, especially those who occupy themselves with poetic and philosophical works, are very unanimous in decrying this kind of tale. They look upon it as something needing no imagination and little, if any, logic. But they are

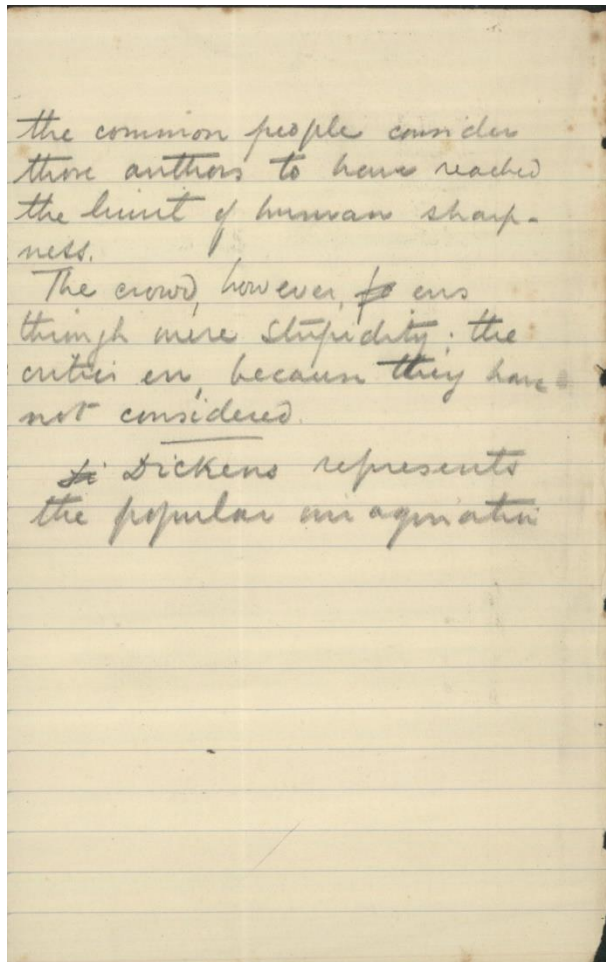
in this mistaken - that
they have never attempted
to analyse the stories I
treat of, that they never
have considered what a
detective story really is,
and what faculties are
needed for its writing. Some
of these critics may be
excused in that being
too much accustomed to
the work, in this line, of
~~some gentlemen who~~
will be reasonable
and unimpaired
other gentlemen of this like
literary value, they have
very correctly inferred, from
what they know, that the
detective story needs no imagin-

in this mistaken - that they have never
attempted to analyse the stories I
treat of, that they never have
considered what a detective story
really is, and what faculties are
needed for its writing. Some of these
critics may be excused in that, being
too much accustomed to the work, in
this line of some gentlemen who will be
nameless {...} and numerous all other
gentlemen of ~~this~~ like literary value,
they have very correctly inferred, from
what they know, that a the detective
story needs no imagin-



ation, that it needs no logic - that,
indeed, anyone can write it, if only he
have no respect for whatever intellect
he ~~may have~~ possess.

On the other hand, the popular idea
lies in the other extreme. The crowd
judges from the same premises and it
draws an opposite conclusion. As the
imagination of the authors of whom I
have spoken is not superior to the
popular imagination; as their logic is
not more acute than the logic of a
carpenter or a baker (supposing the
carpenter and the baker to have no more
intellect than may supposed),



the common people consider those authors to have reached the limit of human sharpness.

The crowd, however, errs through mere stupidity; the critics err, because they have not considered.

Di Dickens represents the popular imagination.

DIREITOS ASSOCIADOS

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