

{ Elementary, My Dear Watson }

IF JOSEPH MINTON HADN'T SAT NEXT to Rose Driver on a plane back from England in 1957, he might still be practicing law instead of pursuing his passion for English antiques. At the time, Driver was one of Dallas' top antiques dealers, and Minton had been living in England for a year after finishing law school. "We talked incessantly on the plane back home," Minton remembers. "She gave me all these sources in England of places to buy antiques and told me to start buying. So I did. I already had an interest, but she was the one who gave me a big push." Minton practiced law afterward, but eventually left to become an interior designer and open his own store. Nothing is more evocative of English decorating than a man's library, and here Minton has taken the opportunity to show off his theatrical side, with a tongue-in-cheek homage to Sherlock Holmes. "Sherlock Holmes' library was his sanctuary," Minton says. "And that street scene outside the window—it seems like I've walked it many times in London."

Brass chandelier from Milton Kent Antiques; Bennisson fabric draperies, early 19th century English rosewood desk, Staffordshire dogs, and late 18th century English bookcase, red felt English hall chair, all from Joseph Minton Antiques; English rug from Tajoy Oriental Rugs; oil portrait, knife boxes in the shape of urns on mantel, Adams-style pedestal, and gilt mahogany mantel, all from East & Orient Company; red leather, English art deco chair, and table in window, from Nick Brock Antiques; English hunting cap, collection of Betty Gertz; Joe Minton, 2nd quarter 20th century, American. He sports a cashmere Kilan English-style checked sport coat.

