

## Antiques experts The Keno Brothers head to The Music Hall

November 15, 2009 2:00 AM



The Keno Brothers head to The Music Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 18. Courtesy photo  
By Jeanné McCartin  
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Identical twins Leigh and Leslie Keno declared themselves antique dealers in 1968, says Leslie, who takes on the job of phone interviewee while his brother is on the road. "We wrote in a diary 'we are 12-years-old at this time ...; and we are antique dealers.'"

Today Leigh is director of American Furniture for Sotheby's. Leslie, worked for Christie's, went on to become a New York City antique dealer and recently launched Keno Auctions. The pair appears on PBS' "Antiques Roadshow" hosted "Collect This! With the Keno Brothers" on MSN.com and WGBH's series Find! They cowrote "Hidden Treasures, Searching for Masterpieces of American Furniture" with Joan Barzilay Freund. The two will deliver their lecture "Hidden Treasures" as part of the New Hampshire Home's 2009 Celebrity Lecture Series at the Music Hall on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

### Go&Do

WHAT: New Hampshire Home magazine's Celebrity Lecture Series presents The Keno Brothers' Hidden Treasures

WHEN: Wednesday, Nov. 18, 7 p.m.

WHERE: The Music Hall, 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth

COST: \$42.75/\$32.75/\$60 VIP

CONTACT: 436-2400,

[www.themusichall.org](http://www.themusichall.org)

Portsmouth Herald: What is your favorite surprise find?

Leslie Keno: We'll be talking about one, a table, at the (Portsmouth) show, one a lady found for \$25. ...; But one of my favorites is the 'main character' so to speak in the book "Hidden Treasures." ...; It's a mahogany desk and bookcase with solid silver handles and hinges, signed by Christopher Townsend of Newport, RI. ...; It turned up in Paris ...; sold for eight million, Two-hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Herald: What is your favorite home visit?

Keno: ... that's a tough one. I'd have to say the White House. We had the privilege and honor of going with Laura Bush on a tour of the White House. (Aired on the History Channel, as the "Behind Closed Doors," special).

Herald: What are some of the surprising locations where you've made discoveries?

Keno: I'd say for Leigh it was a pair of Goddard chairs in a chicken coop. ...; The children were using them in the clubhouse.

Herald: The TV perception is the two of you are joined at the hip. Are you actually close?

Keno: Being identical twins we're very close, of course, but obviously have separate lives. I'm married with two children, Leigh has a son. But we're very close. We're best friends. I think it's a tragedy when identical twins aren't close. When we have even a little tiff, we feel horrible. We want to make up...; it's little like being mad at yourself really.

Herald: Do you have a special collection?

Keno: I don't collect any more. Leigh does — I'll tell you for him American stoneware, he loves that. And I'll say he collects burl ware, burl bowls. ...; But it's hard to collect when you're a dealer.

Herald: Do you have a treasured piece?

Keno: It is the delftware bowl that my mother gave to me ...; early 18th century, 1740. ...; My mom found it for around \$1.50, it was cracked. ...; — that's the most treasured.

Herald: What attracts you to antiques?

Keno: I tell you, antiquing is a treasure hunt. It's a primal urge, very primal for me. I love the hunt and the search and the sense of discovery. I love learning about it and seeing the hand craftsmanship.

Herald: What's the question everyone asks, you wish they wouldn't?

Keno: Are you Leslie or Leigh. ...; People always mix us up, my mother got us mixed up!

Herald: What do people commonly assume is valuable that isn't?

Keno: We see a lot of seating furniture, a lot of chairs particularly ...; pressed-back kitchen or dining chairs, turn of the century, there was a amazing number produced.

Herald: The one thing you'd own if you could?

Keno: Wow, I would have to say, it would actually be a Porsche, Model 917, (Leigh and I used to race antique cars.),...; it's a Le Mans race car.

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