

# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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## **(Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)**

*[Poster]: Waldbühne, 13.Sept.15 uhr. Über ist Kain und Abel. Black Nativity Chor USA. Christlicher Sängerbund. Das spiel von der mauer es sprechen: Pastor Martin Luther King. Bischof D. Dr. Otto Dibelius. [1964]*

Berlin: Der Beauftrage d. Ev. Kirche f. Mission [1964]

\$3500

Poster. 16½" x 11½". Printed in black and red on glazed paper stock. Fine. Poster for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s visit to Cold War Berlin in 1964.

*[Image on next page]*

In 1964 West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt invited Dr. King to open the 14th annual cultural festival of the city, which had prepared a triumphant welcome for President John F. Kennedy only one year before, Dr. King used the opportunity to deliver a sermon on universal brotherhood: saying that although the city “stands as a symbol of the division of men on the face of the earth,” it was clear that “on either side of the wall are God’s children, and no man-made barrier can obliterate that fact.”

In his only one and a half days in the city, Dr. King visited the Berlin Wall (where only the day before an East German had escaped to the West, provoking a gun battle between U.S. soldiers and East German border guards), and opened the city’s cultural festival that also included a memorial service for John F. Kennedy, delivered a sermon to more than 20,000 West Berliners at an outdoor arena, and was awarded an honorary degree by the Theological School of the Protestant Church.

Most spectacularly, and without a passport, King managed to cross the border at Checkpoint Charlie into East Berlin, where he preached to an enthusiastic crowd in the overflowing St. Mary’s Church at Alexander Square about the struggle for civil rights in his own country, bringing greetings from the “Christian brothers and sisters” both from the United States and West Berlin. Since so many (especially young) people came to see Dr. King, he had to hold another service in the nearby Sophia Church for almost 2,000 people. Afterwards, he met with students from Humboldt University and church officials before returning to the sector of the city controlled by the Western Allies.

Only three months later, he returned to Europe to accept the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo. An exceptionally uncommon poster for Dr. King’s important if often overlooked appearance in Germany. [\[BTC#405253\]](#)

**WALDBÜHNE 13. SEPT. 15 UHR**

**ÜBERALL IST KAIN UND ABEL**

**BLACK NATIVITY CHOR USA**

**CHRISTLICHER SÄNGERBUND**

**DAS SPIEL VON DER MAUER**

**ES SPRECHEN:**

**PASTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING**

**BISCHOF D. DR. OTTO DIBELIUS**

Der Beauftragte d. Ev. Kirche f. Mission in Berlin