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His will also specified that if this offer was not accepted the collection was to be deposited until it could be sold for a price not less than £10,000. If it was not sold after twelve years had elapsed, it was to be put up for auction.

This tempting offer placed Free Library Committee in a dilemma. To spend

very valuable

collection, would threaten the completion of three new district libraries currently at the

planning stage. Sam Timmins urged acceptance of the offer, but the Town Council decided

against. An attempt was made to raise the funds by private subscription but was not

realisable. When Birmingham failed to meet the offer the collection was finally sold in 1897

to Marsden J. Perry of Providence, Rhode Island, and in 1908 the majority of it passed to

Henry Oay Folger, where it now remains in the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington,

DC.

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