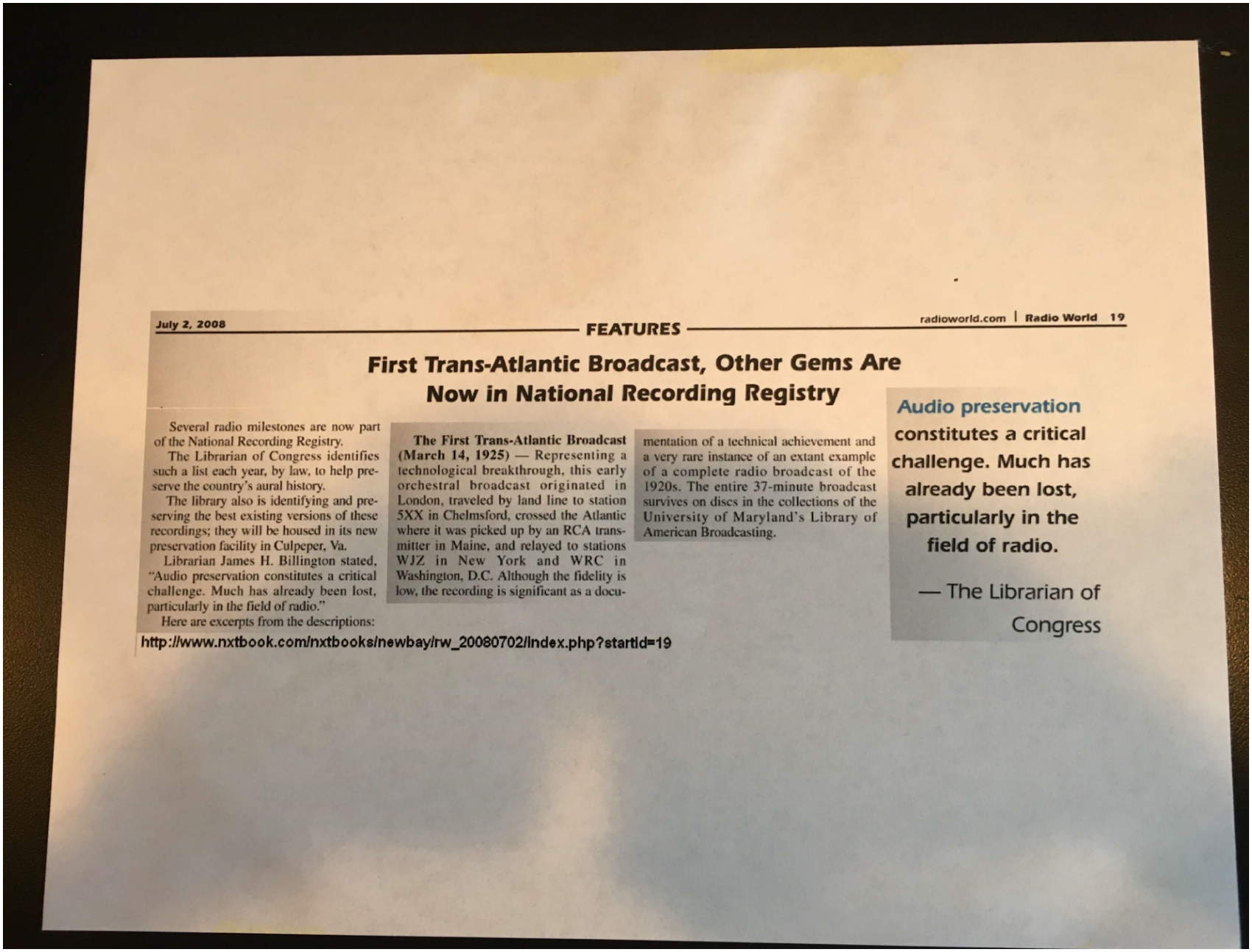
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First Trans-Atlantic Broadcast, Other Gems Are Now in National Recording Registry

Several radio milestones are now part of the National Recording Registry.

The Librarian of Congress identifies such a list each year, by law, to help preserve the country's aural history.

The library also is identifying and preserving the best existing versions of these recordings; they will be housed in its new preservation facility in Culpeper, Va.

Librarian James H. Billington stated, "Audio preservation constitutes a critical challenge. Much has already been lost, particularly in the field of radio."

Here are excerpts from the descriptions:

The First Trans-Atlantic Broadcast (March 14, 1925) — Representing a technological breakthrough, this early orchestral broadcast originated in London, traveled by land line to station 5XX in Chelmsford, crossed the Atlantic where it was picked up by an RCA transmitter in Maine, and relayed to stations WJZ in New York and WRC in Washington, D.C. Although the fidelity is low, the recording is significant as a documentation of a technical achievement and a very rare instance of an extant example of a complete radio broadcast of the 1920s. The entire 37-minute broadcast survives on discs in the collections of the University of Maryland's Library of American Broadcasting.

Audio preservation constitutes a critical challenge. Much has already been lost, particularly in the field of radio.

— The Librarian of Congress

http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/newbay/rw_20080702/index.php?startId=19

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