The Oxford Book Of Letters

Frank Kermode Anita Kermode

Our book today is the delightful Oxford Book of Letters from the halcyon year 1995, a beautifully-produced and jam-packed thing edited by Frank and Anita Kermode and devoted, of course, to what is now axiomatically referred to as the lost art of letter-writing. Axiomatically, but not, I think, melodramatically; letters were tangible things, after all, capable of surviving floods, fires, and estate sales, whereas our present forms of written communication are easily deleted (hell, Snapchat deletes itself), and also easily lost: I wrote my first emails twelve years