

*The Sunday Telegraph*  
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**Books of the Year**

*Reviewers and guests choose their favourite reading of 2004*

**TOM STOPPARD**

Joshua Rozenberg's *Privacy and the Press* (Oxford) now needs a reprint to catch up with Princess Caroline's victory over the paparazzi at the European Court of Human Rights, but it is still a timely, highly readable account of how we have arrived at a privacy law which trumps the right to free expression.

*The Wisdom of Crowds* by James Surowiecki (Little, Brown) says that large groups of people, when you aggregate their opinions, know better than any single expert or leader; a brilliant and fascinating book for democrats. And some news just in: Paul Johnson's *The Vanished Landscape* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson), his memoir of a 1930s childhood in the Potteries, is a minor classic, a quiet book, a delight.