

The Sunday Telegraph
November 28, 2004

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.

Author's note: The reprint that Sir Tom requested was published in October 2004. It can be identified by the 11-page preface dated July 2004, which brings readers up to date with Princess Carline's case and the law lords' ruling on Naomi Campbell. Those who have the earlier version of the book may read the new preface on this website.