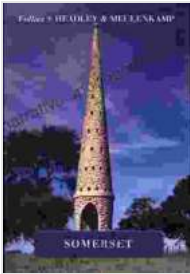


# Discover the Eccentric Follies of Somerset: Architectural Oddities that Captivate the Imagination



Nestled amidst the rolling hills and picturesque landscapes of the English county of Somerset, there lies a collection of architectural wonders that

defy convention and spark intrigue. These structures, known as "follies," are architectural extravagances that serve no practical purpose beyond their aesthetic appeal. Their whimsical designs and enigmatic histories have captured the imagination of visitors for centuries.



## Follies of Somerset (Follies of England Book 31)

by Nicoletta Arbia

★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6190 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 66 pages  
Lending : Enabled



### The Allure of Architectural Oddities

Follies have a long and fascinating history in England. They emerged in the 18th century as symbols of wealth and eccentricity among the landed gentry. These structures were often built as folly towers, mock ruins, or other whimsical creations to enhance the aesthetic appeal of a property. While their primary function was ornamental, they also reflected the idiosyncratic tastes and aspirations of their creators.

### Exploring Somerset's Follies

Somerset boasts an impressive array of follies, each with its own unique story to tell. From the enigmatic Ham Hill Folly to the elaborate Prior Park

Palladian Bridge, these architectural curiosities offer a glimpse into the eccentric minds of their builders.

## **Ham Hill Folly**

Perched atop Ham Hill, overlooking the town of Montacute, stands the enigmatic Ham Hill Folly. This towering structure, dating back to the 18th century, is a cylindrical tower with a spiral staircase leading to a viewing platform. Its purpose remains shrouded in mystery, but it is believed to have been a hunting lodge or a folly built for the sheer pleasure of its owner.

## **Prior Park Palladian Bridge**

Nestled within the picturesque grounds of Prior Park, a stately Palladian mansion, lies the elegant Prior Park Palladian Bridge. This graceful bridge, designed by the renowned architect John Wood the Elder in the 18th century, spans a serene lake. It is a masterpiece of classical architecture, boasting intricate columns and delicate arches.

## **The Temple of Folly**

One of the most unusual follies in Somerset is the Temple of Folly, located near the village of Norton St. Philip. This peculiar structure was built in the 19th century by the eccentric Reverend John Skinner. It is a mock-temple adorned with strange carvings, including mythical creatures and human skulls. Its bizarre appearance has made it a popular tourist attraction.

## **Dunster Castle Folly**

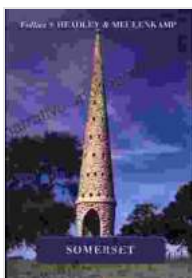
Standing on a hill overlooking the medieval village of Dunster, Dunster Castle Folly is a striking tower folly. This 18th-century structure was built by

the Luttrell family to provide panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Its tall, slender tower is topped by a battlemented parapet, adding to its whimsical charm.

## Preserving a Legacy of Eccentricity

The follies of Somerset are a testament to the imagination and eccentricity of their creators. They have survived the passage of time, becoming cherished landmarks that continue to fascinate visitors. In recent years, there has been a growing movement to preserve and restore these architectural oddities, ensuring their legacy for future generations.

The follies of Somerset are a unique and captivating part of the county's cultural heritage. Their whimsical designs and enigmatic histories invite visitors to explore the boundaries of creativity and imagination. From the towering Ham Hill Folly to the elegant Prior Park Palladian Bridge, these architectural marvels offer a glimpse into the eccentric minds of their builders. As efforts continue to preserve and restore these architectural oddities, they will continue to inspire and entertain visitors for centuries to come.



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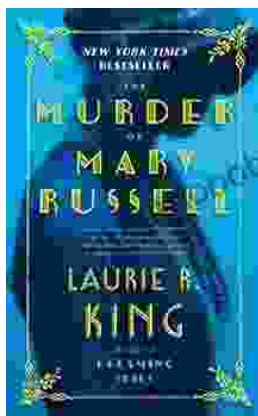
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