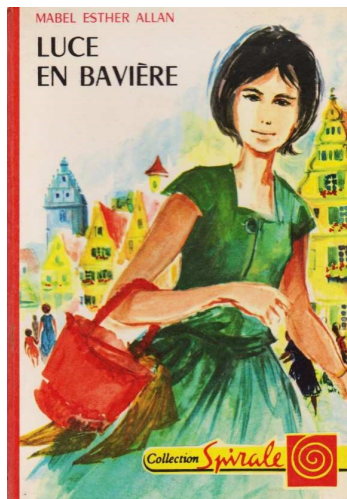




Ripping Reads No 29 May 2019



Collection Spirale by Susan French

On my bookshelves I have two Mabel Esther Allan collectables. I saw them going cheap in an internet sale and bought them simply because I was intrigued by the titles! The books were printed in France between 1960 and 1961. They are laminated, picture cover hardback books in French and the titles translate, literally, as *Lucy in Bavaria* and *Lisa in Italy*. I had my suspicions about them and, as I opened *Luce en Bavière*, there was a lovely colour picture on the frontispiece along with the information: 'This edition was originally published under the title *Sara goes to Germany* by Hutchinson, London and, of course, *Lise en Italie* had the same footnote: 'originally published under the title

Amanda goes to Italy by Hutchinson and Co. London. I was actually really pleased! I did not already own these two MEA titles and prices I'd seen were too high for me. I did French 'A' Level, so I am going to try reading them! They were translated into French by Alain Valière, with illustrations by Gilles de Valdès. I will not be able to tell how closely they keep to MEA's stories as I do not own the versions in English.

However, they are lovely books with several full colour illustrations and a 'blurb' on the back. They were marketed with the name '*Collection Spirale*' and when I looked further into this, I found that *Collection Spirale* was part of a larger group called G.P, Générale Publicité, which specialised in literature for young people. They created the *Collection Spirale* series in 1959, aimed at children between 10 and 15 years. There were around 300 books for French children to collect in the series. They were considered to be of a superior quality at a reasonable price and each volume contains several full-colour whole page illustrations as well as black and white ones.

I was interested to find out that the series included four MEA titles, all books

