1. Portrait of August Klipstein.
   Photo attributed to Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, ca. 1911.
Auguste Klipstein’s **Orient-Reise**,

Companion to

Le Corbusier’s *Journey to the East*, 1911

This essay argues for the importance of the art historian and art dealer August Klipstein (1885-1951) to the education, and perhaps the publishing history, of Charles-Edouard Jeanneret (Le Corbusier). In 1911, the two friends decided to take a “Journey to the East.” Le Corbusier’s account of their joint journey is well-known. His *Le Voyage d’Orient* was the first book he wrote (between 1911 and 1914) and the last he approved for publication—in 1965, a little over a month before his death. But the travel diary that Klipstein kept in his native German during this year has never been published. Known as *Orient-Reise*, it has received some scholarly attention, but it has never been studied as a whole. For the most part, Klipstein’s account of their travels has remained in the shadow cast by Le Corbusier’s later world-wide fame. In 1911, however, Jeanneret was the junior party. Klipstein was completing a PhD dissertation in art history at the University of Munich. As elder mentor and daily interlocutor to the young and professionally still unsettled Jeanneret, he surely exercised considerable influence on their common journey—even if Le Corbusier had the habit, later in life, of downplaying the influence of those people who helped shape his maturing aesthetic worldview and first forays into writing. The “companion” in the essay’s title thus plays a dual role. It refers both to the text and to the man: *Orient-Reise* as a companion volume to *Le Voyage d’Orient*, and Klipstein as an ideal travel companion for Le Corbusier during his formative years (Fig. 1).