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AGAIN ON THE GENDER OF THE WORD КОЛЕГА

*The present paper deals with the question concerning the gender of the word 'colleague', more precisely, it tackles the tendency in Bulgarian according to which as a feminine correlate of the masculine form колега 'colleague' not only колежка is used, but also колега. The discussion is in the context of the language-specific rules which function in the adaptation of nouns in Bulgarian, and also – of the relevant lexicographic data dealing with the gender affiliation of the word колега. **It is indicated that the more prestigious (according to some) use of колега as a feminine form does not stem from the donor language, but it is rather a result of an influence of a third language.***