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*TIME AND AGAIN ON THE LONG (FULL)  
AND THE SHORT FORMS OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE*

*This paper was called forth by the reply of the Institute for Bulgarian Language at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences to a proposal to reconsider the rule for the use of the full and short definite article with masculine singular nouns. To our proposal to give writers the freedom to choose which of the two articles to use, the Institute of Bulgarian Language referred us in great detail (absolutely unnecessarily) to the history of establishing the rule in our spelling. Our solid evidence for no semantic difference between the two forms is not taken into account. Completely not understanding the concept ‘democracy in spelling’, the Institute refuses to repeal the rule which, in fact, contemporary Bulgarian writers do not observe.*

*Key words: Balan’s rule, Bulgarian National Corpus, doubling, difficult syntactic analysis*

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