



Die Burg Bourscheid lag auf einem nur von NW aus zugänglichen Schieferfelsen, 150 m über dem rechten Ufer der Sauer, 360 bis 380 m über dem Meeresspiegel. Die Ruinen dieser Anlage zeugen heute noch von einer bedeutenden Feste, die etwa 151 m lang und 53 m breit war, mit einer Fläche von 12.000 qm, umgeben von einer starken Ringmauer mit Zwingern und 11 Türmen.

Die Kernburg/Oberburg entstand um das Jahr 1000 als Ausbau einer bestehenden hölzernen Festung. Die archäologischen Ausgrabungen ergaben ottonische, karolingische, merowingische, sogar römische Spuren. Zu Beginn war der kleine Platz am Bergfried mit dem Palas und der etwas tiefer liegenden Kapelle sowie mit der damaligen Vorburg (heute: tieferer Teil der Oberburg) von einer Ringmauer umgeben, die mit wenigstens 4 Türmen bewehrt war. Von dieser ersten romanisch-gotischen Anlage bestehen nur noch der Bergfried und die Ringmauer, interessant für diesen Teil der Burg sind die zahlreich angebrachten Bauornamente in „opus spicatum“, d.h. Fischgrätenmuster.

Kurz nach 1350 wurden dann mit dem Bau der großen Ringmauer begonnen, die 1384 fertiggestellt war, denn in diesem Jahr wurde das Stolzemburger Haus in der Unterburg errichtet (man beachte den herrlichen gotischen Keller), das mit den anderen drei Burgmannshäusern den Bezirk der Burgmannen bildet, d.h. einen Teil der heutigen Unterburg.

Nachdem nur die Ringmauer mit ihrem Zwinger und 8 Türmen die Kernburg besser schützte, wurde in der Oberburg der Palas auf wenigstens 10 m erhöht, mit vier Stockwerken, dazu wurde ein Backhaus errichtet, unter das man ein zweistöckiges Verlies in den Felsen grub. Das heutige Pförtnerhaus bildet den mit zwei Türmen bewehrten Zugang zu dieser Burg.

Erst nach 1477 wurde die Torbastei errichtet, hinter der ein von 4 Türmen geschützter Graben den Zugang zur Oberburg und Unterburg verwehrte. Wahrlich eine großartige Festung! Vor dem äußeren Tor war der Vorplatz durch Palisaden gesichert. In diesem Areal stand die Gerichtslinde.

Nach 1512 dem Todesjahr des letzten „Bourscheiders“, begann der Verfall der Burg. In der Oberburg entstanden zwei Wohnungen beiderseits des Palas, von denen die einen bereits 1626 aufgegeben wurde, die andere nur zeitweise bewohnt war. Doch wurde um 1650 die Kapelle noch vergrößert: sie erhielt zwei Altäre. Auch wohnte von dieser Zeit an nur noch der Amtmann im Schloss, in dem Stolzemburger Haus, das daher 1785 nochmals als Wohnung neu errichtet wurde, während in der Oberburg Palas und Kapelle bereits zu Ruinen verfielen. Mit dem Einfall der Franzosen im Jahre 1794 endete die Feudal- und Burgenzeit. Im Herbst 1802 wurde das Archiv nach Gemünden im Hunsrück gebracht. 1803 verließ der letzte Amtmann die Burg, bis dann 1812 der letzte Eigentümer seinen ganzen Besitz in Bourscheid und Umgebung versteigern ließ.

Danach befand sich die Burg in Privatbesitz. Der Luxemburger Staat, der 1936 die Anlage unter Denkmalschutz gestellt hatte und auch einige Restaurierungsarbeiten durchführen ließ, kaufte die Ruinen 1972 auf. Seitdem wurden das Stolzemburger Haus sowie das Pförtnerhaus neu errichtet und weitere Restaurierungsarbeiten werden permanent durchgeführt. Durch das Zusammenspiel von archäologischen Untersuchungen und Bearbeitung des Archivs der Herren von Bourscheid konnten die Kenntnisse der Burg und ihrer Einwohner wesentlich erweitert werden, so dass die Gesellschaft ohne Gewinnzwachs „Les Amis du Château de Bourscheid“, sowie das nationale Denkmalschutzamt den Besuchern einen uneingeschränkten Einblick in die Vergangenheit dieser herrlichen Burgenlage liefern können.

Le château-fort de Bourscheid est situé sur un promontoire escarpé, accessible uniquement du nord-ouest, surplombant la rive droite de la Sûre de 150 m, à une altitude de 360 à 380 m au-dessus de la mer. Ce manoir médiéval, entouré d'un épais mur d'enceinte, muni de 11 tours, occupait une surface d'environ 12.000 m², d'une longueur de 151 m et d'une largeur de 53 m.

Le noyau du château fut construit vers l'an 1000, lorsque le fortin en bois existant à cet emplacement fut transformé en château-fort de pierres. Les fouilles archéologiques ont révélé des structures ottoniennes, carolingiennes, mérovingiennes, même romaines. Au début, la place près du beffroi, avec le palais et la chapelle, située à un niveau plus bas, était entourée d'une enceinte garnie d'au moins 4 tours. De cette première construction d'époque romano-gothique, ne subsistent plus que le beffroi et le mur d'enceinte, aujourd'hui enceinte intérieure. A relever dans les murs de cette partie du château les nombreux ornements architecturaux sous forme "d'arêtes de poisson" ("opus spicatum") sont caractéristiques de cette partie du château.

Le grand mur d'enceinte fut mis en chantier vers l'an 1350 et achevé peu avant

1384, année de la construction de la maison de Stolzembourg. Dans la partie inférieure du château (voir la splendide cave en style gothique sous cette maison de fief). Comme la nouvelle enceinte avec ses 8 tours protégeait mieux le château primitif, on éleva le palais à une hauteur d'au moins 10 m, ou à 4 étages sans greniers. On y ajouta un four avec des pièces de logis, en-dessous duquel on creusa dans la roche un cachot à deux niveaux. L'actuelle maison de concierge représente l'accès au château primitif/supérieur, défendu par deux tours.

Shortly after the year 1350 the construction of the extensive circular wall was started. It was finished in 1384, the same year in which the Stolzemburger house in the lower area of the castle was erected (notice the fine basement in gothic style). As the circular wall with its 8 towers now offered better protection to the core of the castle, the "Palas" in the upper area was built to a height of at least 10 meters, which correspond to 4 storeys. A bake-house was added on the top of a two-level dungeon hewn into the naked rock. The warden's house with its two towers formed the entrance to this castle.

Behind the gateway, which was built only after 1477, a ditch protected by 4 towers barred the access to the upper and the lower castle. Truly a great fortification! The square in front of the exterior gate was protected by palisades. In this area stood the linden tree under which justice was said.

Ce n'est qu'après 1477 que fut construite l'actuelle basse-cour, avec un portail, un bastion d'artillerie, un fossé flanqué de 4 tours, interdisant ainsi l'accès au château supérieur (donjon, chapelle et logis de seigneur) et inférieur (maison des hommes castraux et étables). La place devant le portail extérieur était entourée de palissades.

Hélas, dès 1512, année de la mort du dernier seigneur de la famille des Bourscheid, décédé sans laisser de postérité, le château commença à tomber en ruines. Au château supérieur, les héritiers aménageaient 2 corps de logis, des deux côtés du palais, dont l'un fut déjà abandonné en 1626, et l'autre habité seulement passagèrement. Les seigneurs préféraient des châteaux en plaine aux inaccessibles forteresses médiévales. Néanmoins, vers 1650, la chapelle fut agrandie et munie de deux autels. La maison de Stolzembourg fut reconstruite en 1785, à une époque où la chapelle et le palais du château supérieur commençaient à tomber en ruines.

The invasion of Luxembourg by French revolutionary troops in 1794-1795 put an end to feudalism. The Bourscheid archives were taken to Gemünden in the Hunsrück area of Germany in 1802, the last bailiff deserted the castle in 1803. In 1812 the last owner sold his whole property in Bourscheid and environs.

Bourscheid castle now was in private hands for more than a century and a half. In 1972 the Luxembourg State acquired the ruins, which had been declared a national historic monument in 1936. While some restoration work had been done since the 1930s, the Stolzemburger house and the warden's house were reconstructed after 1972, while archaeological excavations probed into the farther past of the castle. This restoration work has rendered Bourscheid castle accessible to visitors.

Daarna bevond de burcht zich in privateigendom. De Luxemburgse staat, die in 1936 de hele bouwconstructie onder monumentenzorg gesteld had en ook enkele restauratiewerken liet uitvoeren, kocht in 1972 de ruïnes op. Sinds die tijd werd het Stolzemburgse huis en het huis van de concierge hernieuwd opgericht, tegelijk met de restauratiewerken werden er archeologische onderzoeken uitgevoerd, om zo het prachtige bouwwerk toegankelijk te maken voor de bezoeker. Door de verwerking van de archieven door de „Amis du Château de Bourscheid“ is namelijk de kennis van de burcht en zijn bewoners aanzienlijk groter geworden.

La conquête du Duché de Luxembourg par les troupes de la France révolutionnaire en 1794-1795 mit fin à l'époque féodale. Dès 1802, les archives de Bourscheid furent transportées à Gemünden/Hunsrück (actuellement Rhénanie-Palatinat, Allemagne Fédérale), en 1803 le dernier régisseur quitte le manoir, avant que finalement, en 1812, le dernier propriétaire noble ne fit mettre aux enchères le château et ses propriétés à Bourscheid.

Ce ne fut qu'en 1972 que l'Etat luxembourgeois acquit les ruines, après les avoir classées monument historique en 1936. Depuis lors la maison de Stolzembourg et l'habitation pour le gardien ont été reconstruites entièrement, des travaux de consolidation sont entrepris en permanence à plusieurs endroits. Mais des fouilles archéologiques systématiques entreprises conjointement avec l'étude exhaustive des archives permettent d'augmenter considérablement les connaissances sur le château et ses anciens habitants, de sorte que l'asbl « Les Amis du Château de Bourscheid », conjointement avec le Service grand-ducal des Sites et Monuments, deviennent de plus en plus à même d'offrir une visite agréable et fructueuse aux visiteurs.

Bourscheid castle is situated on a isolated promontory, accessible only from the north-west, 150 meters above the level of the river Sûre and 370 meters above sea level. Even today the ruins testify to an impressive fortification covering a surface of 12.000 square meters (151 meters long, 53 meters wide) and surrounded by a massive ring wall with 11 watchtowers.

The center of the enclosure came into being around the year 1000 when a stone construction replaced an earlier wooden defense structure. Archaeological excavations have yielded traces from Ottonian, Carolingian, Merovingian and even Roman times. At first the little square near the tower with its "palas" and chapel was surrounded by a circular wall with at least 4 towers. Only the tower and the circular wall subsist of this construction dating from the Romanesque period. The manifold building ornaments in the form of fish-bones ("opus spicatum") are a characteristic of this part of the castle.

The middle point of the castle/burghouse, originated around the year 1000 as a fortification of wood existing at this location transformed into a stone fortification. Archaeological excavations have revealed traces from Ottonian, Carolingian, Merovingian and even Roman times. At first the little square near the tower with its "palas" and chapel was surrounded by a circular wall with at least 4 towers. Only the tower and the circular wall subsist of this construction dating from the Romanesque period. The manifold building ornaments in the form of fish-bones ("opus spicatum") are a characteristic of this part of the castle.

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