

# $^{207}\text{Pb}$ and $^{119}\text{Sn}$ Solid-State NMR and Relativistic Density Functional Theory Studies of the Historic Pigment Lead–Tin Yellow Type I and Its Reactivity in Oil Paintings

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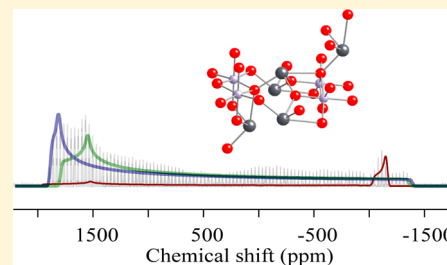
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## Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** Lead soaps (lead carboxylates) have been detected in traditional oil paintings in layers containing the pigment lead–tin yellow type I (LTY-I). LTY-I has been used by artists from at least the second quarter of the 15th century until the first half of the 18th century. Soap formation can lead to protrusions in paint layers and increased transparency, causing the paint support to become visible. We have characterized LTY-I by  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  and  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  solid-state NMR (ssNMR) spectroscopy. Using a combination of NMR techniques and DFT molecular cluster calculations, we identify the individual species in LTY-I and determine their  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  and  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  chemical-shift tensors. The presence of starting materials from the synthesis, minium, and tin(IV) oxide was also verified. Knowledge of the chemical-shift tensor components and the impurities in LTY-I is important for examining the chemistry of degradation processes and soap formation. We demonstrate that ssNMR can be used to detect reaction between  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  and added palmitic acid in a model paint sample containing LTY-I.



## ■ INTRODUCTION

Lead–tin yellow type I (LTY-I) was used as a pigment in European paintings from at least the second quarter of the 15th century until the first half of the 18th century.<sup>1,2</sup> This pigment is an important source of lead ions and has been implicated in the formation of lead carboxylates (commonly referred to as lead soaps), second only to basic lead white,  $2\text{PbCO}_3 \cdot \text{Pb}(\text{OH})_2$ .<sup>3</sup> Lead soap formation is a process that has been observed in hundreds of oil paintings and manifests itself in the formation of aggregates 100–200  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter that distort the paintings' surface textures, by an increased transparency of the paint films, or by the formation of surface crusts.<sup>3–9</sup> In recent years characterizing the reactivity of lead stannate,  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ , with fatty acids has been increasingly recognized as a key issue to understand soap formation in paintings.<sup>3,10</sup>

LTY-I can be prepared by heating a mixture of massicot (orthorhombic  $\text{PbO}$ ) or minium ( $\text{Pb}_3\text{O}_4$ ) with tin(IV) oxide ( $\text{SnO}_2$ ) and, depending on the manufacturing conditions, this process may lead to mixtures of the orthorhombic form  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  with the cubic  $\text{PbSnO}_3$  and  $\text{PbO}$ . It has been stated that when following historic recipes, the optimum temperature range for the synthesis of pure  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  is between 800 and 900  $^\circ\text{C}$ .<sup>11</sup> Commercial sources report the empirical formula of the pigment as  $\text{PbSn}_x\text{O}_y$ . It is not clear whether this ambiguous stoichiometry implies the presence of distinct phases or a solid solution. A similar ambiguity exists concerning the pigment as used in works of art. Single crystals of  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  have been

grown,<sup>12</sup> and powder X-ray diffraction and Raman data have been published<sup>11,13–15</sup> showing scant information on the existence and nature of more complex phases. Yet, it is these minor components that are assumed to react with the free fatty acids in the binding medium of oil paintings.<sup>3</sup> Therefore, solid-state nuclear magnetic resonance (ssNMR) characterization of LTY-I is important for determining the chemical species present in LTY-I, and which species are responsible for soap formation. We use model paint samples to study the reactivity of LTY-I, because only microscopic heterogeneous samples can be obtained from paintings.

Recently, we have demonstrated that ssNMR is a useful technique for obtaining local structural information on lead soaps that cannot be accessed by other methods.<sup>16</sup> A combination of NMR pulse sequences was used because lead has a large chemical-shift anisotropy and correspondingly broad powder patterns. The Wideband Uniform Rate Smooth Truncation-Carr-Purcell-Meiboom-Gill (WURST-CPMG) pulse sequence has been proven simple to implement and advantageous in the acquisition of the ultrawide ssNMR spectra of both spin 1/2 and quadrupolar nuclei.<sup>17–21</sup>

In this contribution we use WURST-CPMG and magic angle spinning (MAS) experiments to measure the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  and  $^{207}\text{Pb}$

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chemical-shift tensors in LTY-I. The experimental results are supported by computational methods for the prediction of  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  NMR parameters from known structural parameters. We use a combination of efficient computational simulations and iterative fittings of the experimental and calculated data to extract the tensor components and assign the overlapping powder patterns to the two crystallographically inequivalent lead positions in the lattice. For such systems, calculations of NMR parameters involve two important considerations. First, relativistic effects must be included in the quantum chemical methods for heavy nuclei such as lead.<sup>22–24</sup> Second, appropriate modeling of the solid-state structure of the system is necessary to obtain meaningful NMR parameters.<sup>25–27</sup> The results of these calculations allow us to specify which experimental parameters apply to each of the two sites.

## ■ EXPERIMENTAL SECTION

**Sample Preparation and SEM-EDS Analysis.** LTY-I 1010 Light was purchased from Kremer Pigments (Germany). For the paint film, 2 g of LTY-I were mixed with 1 g of linseed oil and 0.5 g of palmitic acid. The wet paint film formed a thick paste that was spread on three slides and aged under laboratory conditions for 8 months (approximately 20 °C and 55% relative humidity). The sample was packed in a rotor for 3 weeks, before running the final spectra, showing full consumption of the palmitic acid to within 5%. The reaction was monitored using  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR by integrating the carboxyl peaks of palmitic acid and lead palmitate.

Powder X-ray diffraction was used to confirm the geometry of our sample of LTY-I.<sup>12,28</sup> X-ray diffraction measurements were carried out in a Philips PW1835 open-architecture diffractometer using  $\text{Cu K}\alpha$  ( $\lambda = 1.542 \text{ \AA}$ ) radiation at an acceleration voltage of 45 kV and a 35-mA current. Elemental analysis was performed by energy dispersive X-ray spectrometry in the scanning electron microscope (SEM-EDS), using a FE-SEM Zeiss Sigma HD spectrometer equipped with an Oxford Instrument X-Max<sup>N</sup> 80 SDD detector, with the SEM operated at an accelerating voltage of 20 kV. The atom percentages of lead and tin are normalized to 100%. These values, along with the signal percentages from NMR spectra, were used to calculate the mole percentage of each species in the LTY-I sample.

**Experimental NMR Methods.**  $^{207}\text{Pb}$ ,  $^{119}\text{Sn}$ , and  $^{13}\text{C}$  ssNMR spectra were recorded at 11.75 T (104.63 MHz  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  frequency, 186.50 MHz  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  frequency, and 125.76 MHz  $^{13}\text{C}$  frequency) with a standard Bruker 4 mm probe. Approximately 100 mg of sample was packed in a 4 mm rotor. Solid lead nitrate was used as a secondary external reference for the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  spectra, the isotropic chemical-shift being  $-3491 \text{ ppm}$  relative to tetramethyllead (TML) at 298 K.<sup>29</sup> A plot of spinning speed versus the isotropic chemical shift of lead nitrate was obtained to compensate for the temperature increase due to spinning.  $\text{SnCl}_2$  in  $\text{HCl}$  was used as a secondary external reference for the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  spectra, the isotropic chemical shift being  $-388.1 \text{ ppm}$  relative to tetramethyltin.<sup>30</sup> Glycine was used as a secondary external reference for the  $^{13}\text{C}$  spectra, with an isotropic chemical shift of the carboxyl peak of  $176 \text{ ppm}$  relative to tetramethylsilane.

$^{207}\text{Pb}$  spectra were acquired using direct excitation and high-power decoupling, with spin-temperature alternation and magic-angle spinning (STA/MAS) at 11 and 12 kHz to obtain isotropic chemical shifts. Spin-temperature alternation mini-

mized the effects of acoustic ringing of the probe circuits.<sup>29</sup> Acquisition parameters for these experiments included a  $\pi$  pulse width of  $8.5 \mu\text{s}$ , a delay of 1 ms, and a  $\pi/2$  pulse width of  $4.25 \mu\text{s}$ . High-power proton decoupling (SPINAL-64 at 100 kHz) was used to suppress dipolar couplings. The recycle delay was 5 s and 40,000 scans were acquired.

$^{207}\text{Pb}$  WURST-CPMG spectra of the samples were recorded using the parameters of MacGregor et al.<sup>17</sup> WURST pulse widths were  $50 \mu\text{s}$ , with pulse shapes created via the shape tool in Topspin 3.1. Seventy-five Meiboom–Gill loops were acquired for the WURST-CPMG experiments, with a  $200 \mu\text{s}$  echo, and a sweep range of 0.5 MHz in all cases. The recycle delay was 7 s. High-power proton decoupling (CW at 100 kHz) was used to suppress dipolar couplings. Multiple WURST-CPMG spectra were collected at different carrier frequencies by shifting the carrier frequency a multiple of the spikelet separation ( $981.934 \text{ ppm}$ ) from spectrum to spectrum. Each spectrum was 10 240 scans. The collected spectra were superimposed to form the final spectrum.

$^{119}\text{Sn}$  spectra were acquired using direct excitation with STA/MAS at 5 and 12 kHz with 1024 and 564 scans, respectively. Acquisition parameters for these experiments included a  $\pi$  pulse width of  $5.2 \mu\text{s}$ , a delay of 1 ms, and a  $\pi/2$  pulse width of  $2.6 \mu\text{s}$ . High-power proton decoupling (SPINAL-64 at 100 kHz) was used to suppress dipolar couplings. The recycle delay was 5 s.

$^{13}\text{C}$  spectra were acquired using cross-polarization with MAS at 12 kHz. Acquisition parameters for these experiments included a contact time of 1 ms and a recycle delay of 5 s. During acquisition, proton decoupling (SPINAL-64 at 100 kHz) was used to suppress dipolar couplings.

The analysis of the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  chemical-shift tensors was performed by fitting the WURST-CPMG envelope using the previously published tensor for minium.<sup>31</sup> The values of the isotropic chemical shifts were determined from STA/MAS spectra, with the help of DFT calculations. Fits to the WURST-CPMG envelopes were aided by simulation of the powder pattern with the program WSOLIDS.<sup>32</sup> The  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  chemical-shift tensors were determined using the isotropic chemical shifts determined by spinning at 12 kHz and fitting the spinning sideband pattern from the spectrum at 5 kHz using HBA 3.1.<sup>32</sup> From the fits, we were able to determine the relative mole percentage of each species.

**Computational Methods.** The chemical-shielding tensor can be represented as a  $3 \times 3$  matrix in a Cartesian coordinate system. In the principal axis system (PAS), the shielding tensor is diagonal and the principal components are conventionally assigned as  $\sigma_{11} \leq \sigma_{22} \leq \sigma_{33}$ , which is known as the frequency-ordered convention.<sup>33</sup> NMR experiments measure the chemical-shift related to the principal components of the chemical-shielding tensor by eq 1.

$$\delta_{ii} = \frac{\sigma_{\text{ref}} - \sigma_{ii}}{1 - \sigma_{\text{ref}}} \quad (1)$$

For heavy nuclei such as  $^{207}\text{Pb}$ , the calculated  $\sigma_{\text{ref}}$  is usually of the order of  $10^{-3}$ – $10^{-4}$ . For this reason, the calculated shieldings are converted to chemical shifts by explicit inclusion of the factor  $(1 - \sigma_{\text{ref}})$ .

It is possible to define the chemical-shift tensor using alternative sets of parameters. A convenient description for the NMR spectra of powders is given by the Maryland convention.<sup>34</sup> In this convention the powder pattern is defined by the isotropic chemical shift ( $\delta_{\text{iso}}$ ), the span ( $\Omega$ ), and the

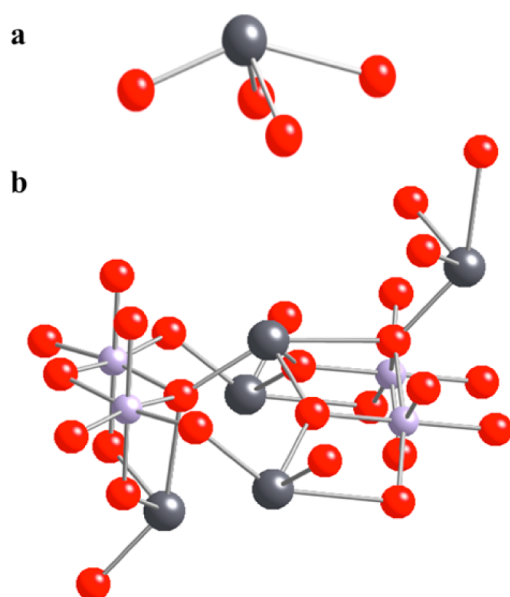
skew ( $\kappa$ ). These three parameters are related to the principal components by the following relations:

$$\delta_{\text{iso}} = \frac{1}{3}(\delta_{11} + \delta_{22} + \delta_{33}) \quad (2)$$

$$\Omega = |\delta_{11} - \delta_{33}| \quad (3)$$

$$\kappa = \frac{3(\delta_{22} - \delta_{\text{iso}})}{\Omega} \quad (4)$$

All density functional computations were performed using the Amsterdam Density Functional (ADF v2013) program package.<sup>35–37</sup> The calculations were carried out at the DFT/BP86 level.<sup>38,39</sup> For the calculations we employed a molecular-cluster approach in which the clusters are formed from the experimental X-ray geometry. The molecular clusters are shown in Figure 1. For clusters I and II, the TZ2P/all-electron (AE) basis set was used for all atoms in the cluster.



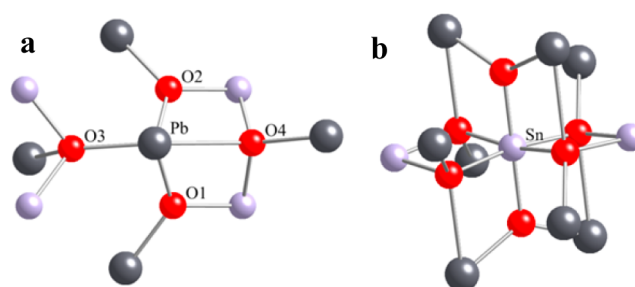
**Figure 1.** Molecular clusters of lead–tin yellow employed in the computational investigations, lead (dark gray), oxygen (red), and tin (light gray). Cluster I (a) and cluster II (b).

For all calculations, relativistic effects were included in the ZORA Hamiltonian at the spin–orbit level.<sup>40–43</sup> The NMR parameters were computed within the GIAO formalism.<sup>44–46</sup> To deal with dangling bonds and resulting self-consistent-field (SCF) convergence problems, the terminal oxygen atoms were saturated with hydrogens. The reported chemical shifts are referenced to the extrapolated intercept of the best-fit correlation line for calculations of the principal components of the chemical shielding of clusters of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ -PbO (7933 ppm); see Supporting Information Figure S1.

## DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

### Determination of the $^{207}\text{Pb}$ Chemical-Shift Tensors.

Crystallographically,  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  belongs to the  $Pbam$  space group, with two distinct lead sites<sup>11</sup> (labeled as Pb(1) and Pb(2)) that theoretically give rise to two distinct NMR signals. However, there are only minimal differences in the local geometries of the lead sites. Both lead sites are coordinated to four oxygen atoms in a hemidirected fashion (Figure 2), similar



**Figure 2.** Structure of  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  showing the coordination environment around the (a) lead (dark gray) and (b) tin (light gray) sites. Oxygen is shown in red. Pb(1) and Pb(2) are structurally similar, and both would have similar environments with slight differences in bond lengths and bond angles.

to other lead oxides like  $\alpha$ -PbO and  $\beta$ -PbO.<sup>47,48</sup> As reported in Table 1, for Pb(1), two oxygen atoms are bonded to lead with

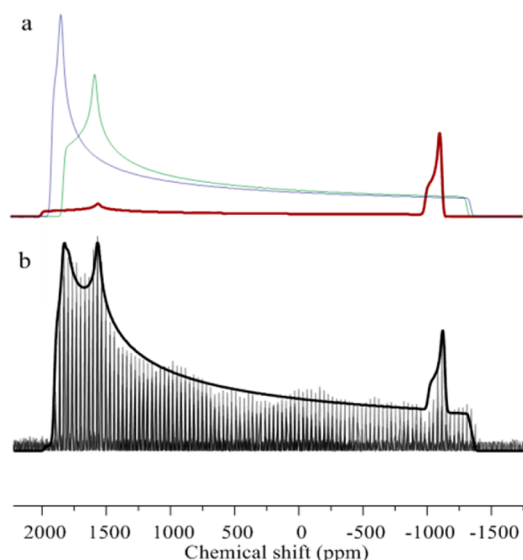
**Table 1.** Selective Bond Distances (Å) and Angles (deg) for the First Coordination Shells of Pb(1) and Pb(2) in  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$

|          | Pb(1) | Pb(2) |
|----------|-------|-------|
| Pb–O1    | 2.15  | 2.24  |
| Pb–O2    | 2.15  | 2.24  |
| Pb–O3    | 2.33  | 2.29  |
| Pb–O4    | 2.78  | 2.80  |
| O1–Pb–O2 | 94.14 | 89.22 |
| O1–Pb–O3 | 90.64 | 88.64 |
| O2–Pb–O3 | 90.64 | 88.64 |

the same bond distance (2.15 Å) and an O–Pb–O angle of 94.14°. The other Pb–O distances are 2.33 and 2.78 Å. For Pb(2), the two equivalent Pb–O bond distances are 2.24 Å and the O–Pb–O angle is 89.22°. The other two Pb–O bond lengths are 2.80 and 2.29 Å.

The  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  spectra of LTY-I were obtained using the STA/MAS and WURST-CPMG experiments. The STA/MAS spectrum with the carrier frequency set at 1650 ppm (Figure S2, Supporting Information) pointed to a broad powder pattern that was not uniformly excited and the spinning sideband pattern for the two lead sites could not be resolved. This was true for MAS spinning speeds of 11 and 12 kHz. However, when the carrier was moved to –1000 ppm, peaks for an impurity were clearly visible. The minium Pb(IV) site was identified with an isotropic chemical-shift of  $-1102 \pm 4$  ppm (Figure S3, Supporting Information).<sup>31,49</sup> Minium is a starting material for the synthesis of LTY-I as well as a photo-degradation product of the pigment.<sup>14</sup>

To achieve uniform excitation and determine the principal components of the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  chemical-shift tensors accurately, we recorded WURST-CPMG spectra piecewise by shifting the carrier frequency an integer multiple of the spikelet spacing. Figure 3 shows the fit of the total spectrum, which consists of the overlap of the chemical-shift tensors of four lead species, two having similar chemical-shift tensors assigned to  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  and the Pb(II) and Pb(IV) sites of the minium impurity that have been previously reported.<sup>31</sup> The two tensors arising from the dominant  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  in LTY-I were refined by determining the possible isotropic chemical shifts from STA/MAS experiments and DFT calculations of the skew. The experimentally determined chemical-shift tensors are reported in Table 2. The



**Figure 3.** (a) Simulated spectrum for each of the individual components in the sample.  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  (blue and green) and the impurity minium (red). (b)  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  spectrum of LTY-I obtained with WURST-CPMG, showing four lead species.

integrated intensities for the species in the simulated fit of the WURST-CPMG spectrum gave  $92.5 \pm 1.5\%$  of the lead as  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  and  $7.5 \pm 1.5\%$  as minium.

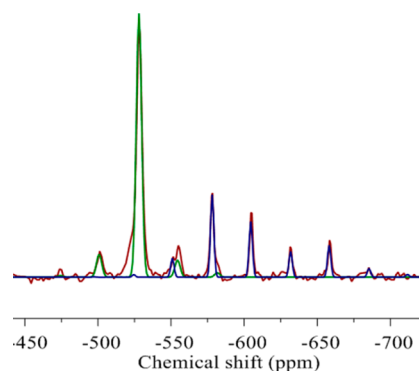
**Calculation of  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  Chemical-Shielding Tensors.** In Table 2, calculated NMR parameters for different clusters that represent  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  (Figure 1) at the AE level of theory are tabulated. Calculations on the cluster that includes only the first co-ordination shell (cluster I) fail to reproduce the experimentally determined chemical-shift principal components, as expected.<sup>50</sup> The first coordination shell cluster is not large enough to describe the interactions necessary for an accurate calculation of the NMR parameters. Cluster II describes the effects of higher coordination shells, for which the calculated parameters are improved significantly over the parameters of cluster I.

Another important aspect of this investigation is the assignment of experimental NMR parameters to a lead site by using general symmetry arguments that correlate the ssNMR and computational results. From the experimentally resolved parameters, the most obvious difference is the resonance position of  $\delta_{22}$  relative to  $\delta_{11}$ . For the experimental tensor of lead site B,  $\delta_{11}$  and  $\delta_{22}$  are very close to each other. The difference between the two experimental principal components is only 75 ppm. For the experimental tensor of lead site A, this difference is 250 ppm, mostly due to a shift of  $\delta_{22}$ . From a

comparison of the calculated parameters of  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  for both clusters, the difference between  $\delta_{11}$  and  $\delta_{22}$  is larger for the Pb(1) site than for Pb(2). The difference is particularly obvious for cluster II where  $|\delta_{11} - \delta_{22}|$  is 182 ppm for Pb(1) and 68 ppm for Pb(2). Thus, we make the assignment of Pb(1) and Pb(2) to experimental sites A and B, respectively.

As mentioned earlier, the local X-ray-derived structures of the two lead sites are similar. The structure around Pb(1) is illustrated in Figure 2a. Because the differences in the two coordination environments are due to differences in the bond lengths and angles, a similar picture can be drawn for Pb(2). The bond distances and angles around the lead centers in the first co-ordination shell are tabulated in Table 1. From the local structure of Pb(2), it is seen that O1, O2, and O3 have a quasi- $C_{3v}$  symmetry around the lead center. This symmetry is perturbed by the presence of O4 and the perturbation is larger for Pb(1) than for Pb(2). Therefore, one would expect the NMR parameters of Pb(2) to deviate slightly from the condition  $\delta_{11} = \delta_{22} > \delta_{33}$  expected for perfect  $C_{3v}$  symmetry. Furthermore, the deviation would be expected to be larger for Pb(1). This expectation is confirmed by the calculations, as seen for the sufficiently large cluster II.

**Determination of the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  Chemical-Shift Tensors.** The  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  spectrum of LTY-I was recorded with the STA/MAS sequence at 12 and 5 kHz (Figure 4). Two tin species are



**Figure 4.** Experimental  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  STA/MAS with proton decoupling spectrum (red) of the LTY-I sample recorded on a 500 MHz magnet, showing unreacted starting material  $\text{SnO}_2$ . The percentages of the two tin species were determined using MAS simulations in WSOLIDS with  $64 \pm 2\%$  for  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  (green) and  $36 \pm 2\%$  for  $\text{SnO}_2$  (blue).

present; one is the tin site of  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ , and the other is the tin site of  $\text{SnO}_2$ , one of the starting materials for the synthesis of LTY-I. As seen in Figure 2, the coordination geometry around the tin site in  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  is close to spherical symmetry. This is

**Table 2.** Calculated and Experimental Principal Components of the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  Chemical-Shift Tensors of  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ <sup>a</sup>

| model clusters    | $\delta_{11}$ (ppm) | $\delta_{22}$ (ppm) | $\delta_{33}$ (ppm) | $\delta_{\text{iso}}$ (ppm) | $\Omega$ (ppm) | $\kappa$        |
|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| experiment site A | $1810 \pm 7$        | $1565 \pm 10$       | $-1335 \pm 20$      | $690 \pm 23$                | $3145 \pm 21$  | $0.84 \pm 0.02$ |
| experiment site B | $1903 \pm 7$        | $1828 \pm 7$        | $-1365 \pm 25$      | $789 \pm 27$                | $3268 \pm 26$  | $0.95 \pm 0.03$ |
| cluster I         |                     |                     |                     |                             |                |                 |
| Pb(1)             | -416                | -871                | -2181               | -1156                       | 1765           | 0.48            |
| Pb(2)             | -617                | -946                | -2023               | -1195                       | 1445           | 0.53            |
| cluster II        |                     |                     |                     |                             |                |                 |
| Pb(1)             | 1987                | 1805                | -1145               | 882                         | 3132           | 0.88            |
| Pb(2)             | 1802                | 1734                | -1206               | 777                         | 3008           | 0.95            |

<sup>a</sup>Span ( $\Omega$ ) and skew ( $\kappa$ ) were calculated.  $\Omega = |\delta_{33} - \delta_{11}|$  and  $\kappa = 3(\delta_{\text{iso}} - \delta_{22})/\Omega$ .

Table 3. Principal Components of the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  Chemical-Shift Tensors of Species Found in Lead–Tin Yellow I

| material                  | $\delta_{11}$ (ppm) | $\delta_{22}$ (ppm) | $\delta_{33}$ (ppm) | $\delta_{\text{iso}}$ (ppm) | $\Omega$ (ppm) | $\kappa$        |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| $\text{SnO}_2$            | $-558 \pm 3$        | $-566 \pm 4$        | $-692 \pm 5$        | $-605 \pm 4$                | $134 \pm 6$    | $0.87 \pm 0.09$ |
| $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ | $-515 \pm 4$        | $-517 \pm 5$        | $-556 \pm 7$        | $-529 \pm 5$                | $41 \pm 6$     | $0.88 \pm 0.14$ |

reflected in the principal components of the chemical-shift tensor derived from a fit of the spectrum in Figure 4, showing a small span indicative of a nearly spherically symmetric environment. The principal components of the  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  chemical-shift tensors are given in Table 3. They were determined by fitting the spinning sideband pattern at 5 kHz with the STA/MAS experiment and the isotropic chemical shifts obtained at 12 kHz. The tensor determined for  $\text{SnO}_2$  is in agreement with various literature reports that the isotropic chemical shift is  $-604 \pm 1$  ppm with spans from 121 to 136 ppm.<sup>51–54</sup>

The integrated intensities of the two species in the simulation of the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  STA/MAS spectrum (Figure 4) are  $64 \pm 2\%$  tin as  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  and  $36 \pm 2\%$  as  $\text{SnO}_2$ . Using the fits of the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  WURST-CPMG and  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  STA/MAS spectra, along with the elemental atom percentages determined by SEM-EDS, we calculated the mole percentages of the molecular species in the sample, as shown in Table 4. With these results, we find that for

Table 4. Normalized Mole Percentages of Lead and Tin Determined from SEM-EDS and NMR

|                           | method                      | lead           | tin            |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| LTY-I                     | SEM-EDS                     | $56.3 \pm 0.3$ | $43.7 \pm 0.4$ |
| $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ | NMR Calculated <sup>a</sup> | $52.1 \pm 0.9$ | $28.0 \pm 0.9$ |
| $\text{Pb}_3\text{O}_4$   |                             | $4.2 \pm 0.8$  |                |
| $\text{SnO}_2$            |                             |                | $15.7 \pm 0.9$ |

<sup>a</sup>Calculated from the signal % in the NMR spectrum and the SEM-EDS results.

every mole of  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ , there is  $0.054 \pm 0.011$  mol of  $\text{Pb}_3\text{O}_4$  present in this LTY-I sample. We also find that for every mole of  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ , there is  $0.56 \pm 0.04$  mol of  $\text{SnO}_2$ . From NMR, we detect no other species.

**Reaction of LTY-I with Palmitic Acid.** Because the soap formation process occurs over many years in cultural heritage objects, we have induced soap formation by adding free fatty acid when preparing paint films to investigate the chemistry of LTY-I. FT-IR (not shown),  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR, and  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  NMR show the formation of lead palmitate (Figure 5), in agreement with previous measurements. The carboxyl region of Figure 5a indicates almost complete conversion of palmitic acid (180.4 ppm) to lead palmitate (182.6 and 183.8 ppm).<sup>10,55</sup> The  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  spectrum (Figure 5b) shows that minium is still observable, although the amount of palmitate formed (0.97 mmol of lead) should have exhausted the minium (0.45 mmol of lead) if it were the only source of lead. In Table 5 we report the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  NMR signal percentages of  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  and  $\text{Pb}_3\text{O}_4$  before and after reaction.

Compared to the  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  spectrum of LTY-I, the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  spectrum is simpler and the tin species have chemical-shift tensors with smaller spans, making it easier to obtain spectra. Comparison of the relative intensities in the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  spectrum of unreacted LTY-I with relative intensities in the  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  spectrum of the sample after reaction with palmitic acid shows that  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  is a source of lead to produce lead palmitate, Figure 6 and Table 5.

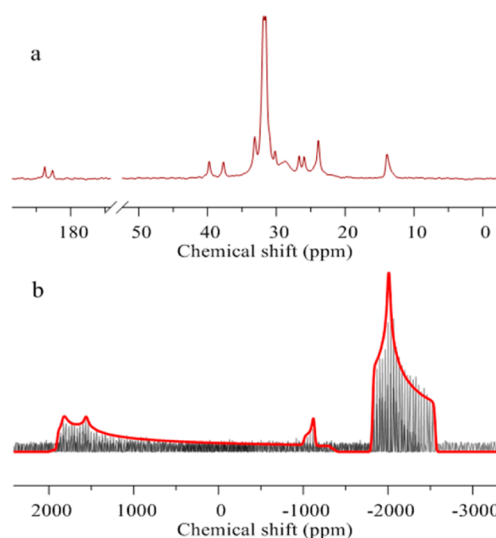


Figure 5. NMR spectra of the LTY-I paint film containing free palmitic acid. (a)  $^{13}\text{C}$  MAS NMR spectrum, showing lead palmitate formation by the appearance of peaks at 182.6 and 183.8 ppm. (b)  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  WURST-CPMG spectrum, showing in addition to  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ , lead palmitate ( $\delta_{\text{iso}} = -2131$  ppm), and minium ( $\delta_{\text{iso}} = -1102$  ppm).

Table 5. NMR Signal Percentages before and after Reaction

|                           | before reaction   |                   | after reaction    |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                           | $^{207}\text{Pb}$ | $^{119}\text{Sn}$ | $^{207}\text{Pb}$ | $^{119}\text{Sn}$ |
| $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ | $92.5 \pm 1.5$    | $64 \pm 2$        | $86 \pm 2$        | $55 \pm 2$        |
| $\text{Pb}_3\text{O}_4$   | $7.5 \pm 1.5$     |                   | $14 \pm 2$        |                   |
| $\text{SnO}_2$            |                   | $36 \pm 2$        |                   | $45 \pm 2$        |

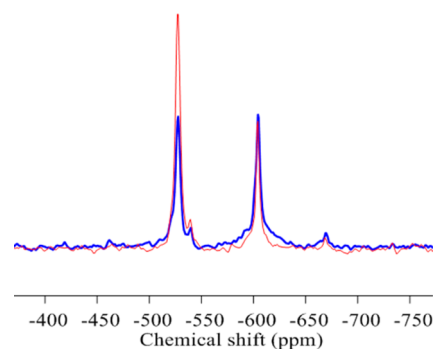


Figure 6.  $^{119}\text{Sn}$  STA/MAS NMR spectra of LTY-I before (red) and after reaction (blue) with palmitic acid in a paint film. The difference in the relative intensity of signal at  $-529$  ppm from  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  in the two spectra demonstrates that  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  has been partially consumed as a result of reaction.

## CONCLUSIONS

The materials encountered in cultural heritage objects are complex and heterogeneous. They are seldom chemically inert and their reactions follow complex pathways. Characterization of their structure and reactivity represents a formidable analytical challenge. We have demonstrated that high-quality

relativistic DFT calculations enable the assignment of the solid-state NMR spectra of crystallographically inequivalent heavy metal nuclides for  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$ . The calculated chemical-shift principal components for  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  deviate at most by 15% from the experimental ones. The combination of ssNMR and DFT molecular-cluster calculations is applicable to studies of other lead-containing materials, as well as solids containing other heavy nuclides.

In LTY-I, by ssNMR we have only detected minium and  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  as possible sources of lead ions for the formation of lead soaps. We have not detected the existence of other lead oxides in the unreacted pigment that have been proposed to be the source of lead reacting with the free fatty acids.<sup>3</sup> Quantitative evaluation of NMR spectra of the unreacted paint with the material after reaction shows that  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  is a source of lead in the formation of lead soaps from lead–tin yellow. Whether the  $\text{Pb}_2\text{SnO}_4$  participates directly in reaction with palmitic acid or it produces intermediates that react with the palmitic acid cannot be determined by these experiments. With the advancement of microrotors, these experiments could, in principle, be used to study samples from cultural heritage objects.

## ■ ASSOCIATED CONTENT

### Supporting Information

The best-fit correlation line for calculations of the principal components of the chemical shielding of clusters of  $\alpha$ - and  $\beta$ - $\text{PbO}$  and  $^{207}\text{Pb}$  STA/MAS spectra of LTY-I. This material is available free of charge via the Internet at <http://pubs.acs.org>.

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### Notes

The authors declare no competing financial interest.

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