The production of a lead glaze with galena: thermal transformations in the PbS-SiO$_2$ system

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Abstract

Galena, also known as PbS, was widely used in the production of lead glazes from the beginning of the 18th century to the second half of the 20th century. Although the SiO$_2$-PbO system has been studied for years, the PbS-SiO$_2$ phase diagram, involved in the formation of a glaze with galena, has not yet been investigated. Temperature transformations for the system 75 wt. % PbS – 25 wt. % SiO$_2$ are investigated in a high temperature resolved X-ray Diffraction experiment with Synchrotron Radiation (HT-SR-XRD) and compared to those of the equivalent system 70 wt. % PbO – 30 wt. % SiO$_2$. Lanarkite, PbO-PbSO$_4$, is the phase predominantly formed as soon as galena decomposes during the heating. The results show that the system...
melts at a temperature higher than the PbO-SiO$_2$ system, but far lower than those expected for the PbO-PbSO$_4$-PbS system. A historical misfired lead glaze produced with galena is also studied. The presence of galena, lanarkite and mattheddleite Pb$_{10}$Si$_4$O$_{12}$SO$_4$Cl$_2$ is determined and discussed in terms of the composition of the galena mineral used and the firing conditions in light of the high temperature transformations previously obtained.

KEYWORDS: PbS-SiO$_2$ system, PbO-SiO$_2$ system, galena, PbO-PbSO$_4$ lanarkite, 2PbO-PbSO$_4$, 4PbO-PbSO$_4$ mattheddleite, high lead glazes, thermal stability

I. Introduction

Lead glazes are among the earliest glazes used to coat earthenware, stoneware and porcelain to make them waterproof. Lead glazes have a wide processing range, low meting point, low viscosity and surface tension and a thermal expansion coefficient which match those of earthenware giving them good adherence (minimal flaking and crazing) and excellent covering capability. They also have a high refraction index that confers brilliance to the glaze.$^1$

The first lead containing glazes were produced in China (Warring states period, 475-221 BC), to cover large jars, but were comprised of relatively low quantities of lead (<20 wt. % PbO). High lead glazes (with composition close to the eutectic mixture 70 wt. % PbO, 30 wt. % SiO$_2$, which melts at 717º C) were not produced until the 1st century BC (Han dynasty and Greco-Roman world)$^{2,3}$. All these glazes show green, yellow and brown colours and imitated metal forms.$^4$

There were two primary methods of applying lead glazes to ceramic surfaces: either by using lead compounds alone or a mixture of lead compounds plus powdered quartz or sand$^2$. The former method was used between the 1st and 3rd centuries AD and the latter between the 2nd and 4th centuries AD$^4$. One further variation was the fritting of the lead.
compounds-plus-quartz mixture before its application to the ceramic surface.\(^1\) A *frit* is any glassy or partially glassy material obtained after firing a mixture of sand with flux materials (lead compounds, plant ashes, alkaline salts, etc)\(^2\). This method was widely used in the Medieval period until modern times.

Galena, PbS, is the most important lead ore, and known to have been widely exploited by the Romans to extract silver and to obtain metallic lead, but there is no archaeological evidence or literature demonstrating the use of galena or roasted galena (PbO) in the production of the lead glaze in Roman times. The use of galena would have the advantage of eliminating one stage (the roasting of galena to obtain lead oxide) in the process of producing a lead glaze. However, the use of galena was not documented until the 18\(^{th}\) century.\(^6\) At the same time as Ramazzini, an Italian physician, linked the diseases shared by potters, gilders and glass makers to lead poisoning.\(^7\)

Although there is a detailed phase diagram for the PbO-SiO\(_2\) system \(^8,9,10\), there is no information about the transformations that take place in the PbS-SiO\(_2\) system. However, complementary information of the Pb-PbS, PbS-O and PbO-PbSO\(_4\) systems is available.\(^11-14\). The use of *galena* implies the oxidation of PbS, but as PbS and PbO do not have a common boundary in the phase diagram, it will always involve the formation of lead sulphates and oxysulphates; PbO-PbSO\(_4\), 2PbO-PbSO\(_4\), 4PbO-PbSO\(_4\) which are known to have a limited solubility in the silica melt. Therefore, the use of *galena* implies oxidation of the PbS into PbSO\(_4\) and progressively more oxidised oxysulphates, sulphate anion breakdown (above 880º C) and the reaction with SiO\(_2\) to obtain the melt. The main advantage of the PbO-SiO\(_2\) system in the production of glazes is its low melting point (717º C\(^10\)). The large compositional range, between 20 and 60 mol. % SiO\(_2\), for which a melt forms at a relatively low temperature, below 760º C\(^10\) is also an advantage. This does not occur in the PbS-SiO\(_2\) system. The PbS-PbSO\(_4\)-PbO phase

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diagrams show higher melting temperatures, the lowest for the more oxidised species at 916°C.

The production of a lead glaze with galena, PbS-SiO$_2$ system, and the equivalent PbO-SiO$_2$ system are investigated in a time resolved high temperature X-ray Diffraction experiment with Synchrotron Radiation (HT-SR-XRD). Although the equilibrium phase diagram of the PbO-SiO$_2$ system is well known, equilibrium conditions are not necessarily reached during the time resolved experiment. Therefore, the data obtained for the PbO-SiO$_2$ mixture will reveal any shift in the phase transformation and melting temperatures due to non-equilibrium conditions.

A historical misfired lead glaze ware that retains galena relic grains is also studied. The crystalline phases present in the glaze vestiges from an incomplete glaze firing are identified and their presence discussed in terms of the data obtained from the High temperature experiment and of the composition of the glaze. Finally, the reasons for the use of galena in the production of lead glazes and its limitations are discussed in light of the results obtained.

II. Experimental Procedure

(1) High-temperature resolved XRD experiment (HT-SR-XRD)

Two mixtures of the eutectic composition 70 wt. % PbO : 30 wt. % SiO$_2$ were prepared using PbO in one case and using galena in the second case. Chemical reagents for both the PbO (Fluka ref. 11526) and SiO$_2$ (Merck ref. 107536) were selected. Galena is of mineral origin and the sample obtained was from the Molar mine (Catalonia).

The in situ high-temperature X-ray diffraction measurements were obtained on the high-brilliance, high-energy (90 keV) synchrotron beamline ID15B at the ESRF (Grenoble, France). The experimental setup consisted of a small cylindrical furnace with the raw
powders contained in unsealed 0.5-mm-diameter MgO capillaries mounted on a goniometer for alignment. An image-plate detector (Model MAR345, Marresearch, Norderstedt, Germany) was used to collect the XRD patterns with an exposure time of 1 min and rotation of the sample was sufficient to ensure good data quality. The furnace temperature was controlled by a previously calibrated external regulator. An initial drying stage was programmed, consisting of a slow heating rate (1°C/min) between 90°–110°C and then maintaining the temperature for 5 minutes. The sample was afterwards heated at a constant heating rate of 5°C/min up to the maximum temperature with data being recorded during this slow ramping. The measuring time took only 1 min and consequently a variation of 5°C existed between the beginning and the end of the data collection. The data collection, readout, and erasure of the image-plate took 4 min in total. The whole cycle for each dataset took 5 min (measuring time, readout, and then erasure of the image plate), resulting in images being taken every 25°C. Finally, the sample was cooled down to room temperature at a rate of 10°C/min. The whole measurement cycle took 3h.

The calibration of the sample to detector distance, beam centre and orthogonality of the detector were determined using a silicon standard measured under the same conditions. The radial integration of the images was performed using the Fit2D software. Identification of the compounds was performed based on the Powder Diffraction File (PDF) database from the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD). Fig. 2 and 3 represents high temperature XRD patterns (HT-SR-XRD) obtained during the firing of the mixtures. Thermal stability ranges of the crystalline phases identified for (a) PbO-SiO₂ and (b) PbS-SiO₂ are shown in Figure 4. The ordinate axis is obtained from the intensity of the principal peak of each crystalline phase relative to the intensity of the MgO crucible, and gives a qualitative temperature evolution of each compound.

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(2) Analysis of a misfired lead glaze

A misfired storage jar (CCV050) dating from the 18th century was investigated. The jar was part of an assemblage of coarse wares found in the garret of Casa Convalescência, an ancient hospital building that provided medical assistance, in Vic. Due to uncontrolled and unequal temperature conditions in the kiln, the glaze exhibits three different colours: opaque green, opalescent yellow and transparent honey (Figure 1).

A polished thin section of glaze and ceramic body to a standard thickness of 30 µm was obtained. The thin section was studied by Optical Microscopy (OM) with transmitted and reflected light using a petrographic microscope (LEICA DM 2700 P) and Scanning Electron Microscopy with an Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy detector attached (SEM-EDS) to identify the crystalline compounds present. A crossbeam workstation (Zeiss Neon 40) equipped with a Shottky Field emitter column with an EDS detector (INCAPentaFETx3 detector, 30 mm², ATW2 window) attached was employed for the SEM investigation. Backscattered electron (BSE) images were obtained and analyses of the crystallites were carried out to ascertain the composition at 20 kV acceleration voltage.

Electron Microprobe (EPM, JEOL JXA-8230) was also used to quantify the chemical composition of the different micro-crystallites present that contained both Pb and S which requires the high energy resolution provided by the WDS (wavelength dispersive spectroscopy) detector. A minimum of three analyses of the crystallites and of the glaze were acquired and the average and standard deviation were obtained. The operating conditions were 20 kV and 15nA with a focused beam (spot analysis). The standards used were PbS for galena and Pb, SrSO₄ for S, CaSiO₃ for Si and Ca and AgCl for Cl. Finally, the chemical composition of the glaze was determined avoiding the glaze-ceramic interface as well as the crystallites.

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The crystalline structure of the micro-crystallites was determined by Synchrotron Radiation micro-X-ray diffraction (SR-μXRD) on the same polished thin section in the focused-beam station of beamline BL04 at the ALBA Synchrotron (Spain). The areas of interest from the polished thin section were selected using an on-axis visualization system and measured in transmission geometry with a 15x15 μm² (FWHM) focused beam of 29.2 KeV (λ = 0.4246 Å). The diffraction patterns were recorded with a Rayonix SX165 CCD detector (active area of 165mm diameter, frame size 2048 x 2048 pixels, 79 μm pixel size, dynamic range 16 bit). The calibration of the sample to detector distance, beam centre and orthogonality of the detector was performed using a LaB₆ standard and the radial integration of the images was performed with the Fit2D software. Identification of the compounds was performed based on the Powder Diffraction File (PDF) database from the International Centre for Diffraction Data (ICDD).

III. Results

The corresponding high temperature diffraction data taken during the heating of PbO-SiO₂ and PbS-SiO₂ mixtures are shown in 2D images in Figure 2 and Figure 3 respectively. The HT-SR-XRD patterns taken before heating and after cooling are also shown. Apart from the initial and new crystalline compounds formed during the heating, the XRD pattern corresponding to the periclase (MgO) from the crucible is also seen.

(1) PbO-SiO₂ high-temperature resolved XRD experiment

The high temperature diffraction data taken during the heating of a mixture 70 wt. % PbO : 30 wt. % SiO₂ is shown in Figure 2 and the appearance and disappearance of the
phases marked. The initial compounds are massicot (PbO, orthorhombic, Pbcm) and \( \alpha \)-quartz (SiO\(_2\), trigonal). The thermal stability range of the different compounds identified is summarised in Figure 4a.

The reversible transformation between \( \alpha \)-SiO\(_2\) and \( \beta \)-SiO\(_2\) at 573° C, is observed in Figure 2. PbO was stable up to 560° C. At 600° C, PbO began to decrease until it disappeared completely at 722° C. A melt coexisting with other crystalline compounds (a melt is expected to form at 717° C\(_{10}\) in the system 70 wt. % PbO – 30 wt. % SiO\(_2\)) was clearly found at about 722° C. As soon as PbO reacted with SiO\(_2\), Pb\(_2\)SiO\(_4\) was formed increasing until 690° C; it decreased quickly at 715° C and completely disappeared at 727° C. At 670° C Pb\(_4\)SiO\(_6\) was formed and disappeared at 722° C. Finally, PbSiO\(_3\) was formed at 625° C and disappeared completely at 727° C with an increase in the range 715-722° C, just when Pb\(_4\)SiO\(_6\) decomposed incongruently into Pb\(_2\)SiO\(_4\) and PbSiO\(_3\).

(2) High-temperature resolved XRD experiment PbS-SiO\(_2\)

The high temperature diffraction data obtained for a mixture of 75 wt. % of galena plus 30 wt. % of quartz with a composition equivalent to the eutectic composition 70 wt. % PbO : 30 wt. % SiO\(_2\) is shown in Figure 3. The appearance and disappearance of the phases are also marked. The initial compounds determined were galena (PbS), \( \alpha \)-quartz, anglesite (PbSO\(_4\)), cerussite (PbCO\(_3\)) as well as periclase (MgO) from the crucible. Both anglesite and cerussite are weathering compounds of the natural galena deposit, and were present in a very small amount. The thermal stability ranges of the crystalline phases identified is summarised in Figure 4b.

Galena was stable up to 315° C and then began to slowly decrease until it disappears completely at 795° C. A melt coexisting with other crystalline compounds appeared at
about 775º C (a melt is expected at 717º C in the system 70 wt. % PbO – 30 wt. % SiO₂)⁴. With regard to the galena weathering compounds, cerussite was stable up to 275º C decreasing from 275º C upwards and disappearing at 315º C. Massicot (PbO) appeared at 315º C increasing up to 475º C and completely disappearing at 595º C. Anglesite was stable up to 575º C, increasing between 575º C and 775º C and afterwards decreasing when it completely disappeared at 860º C. The reversible transformation between α-PbSO₄ and β-PbSO₄ at 883º C did not occur because the anglesite had already fully decomposed at a lower temperature (≈860º C) in our system. The appearance of lead oxy-sulphate, PbO·PbSO₄ (lanarkite)¹⁷, followed the decrease of galena (above 315º C) increasing progressively, but more quickly between 595º C and 775º C. Lanarkite suddenly disappeared at 795º C and a lead dioxy-sulphate, 2PbO·PbSO₄ formed. The lead dioxy-sulphate, 2PbO·PbSO₄ began to decrease at 900º C completely disappearing at 950º C. Minium (Pb₃O₄) formed between 810º C and 860º C and was not found at 900º C. Meanwhile a second melt developed; in fact, according to the PbO-PbSO₄ phase diagram a sulphate melt should appear at this temperature¹³. At 900º C forsterite (Mg₂SiO₄) was also formed due to the reaction of the silica melt with the magnesia crucible. After cooling, the crystalline phases found were 2PbO·PbSO₄ and 4PbO·PbSO₄ -crystallising from the sulphate melt-, quartz and forsterite (Mg₂SiO₄).

In summary, the oxidation of galena (Figures 4 and 5) gave rise mainly to the formation of lanarkite, anglesite and 2PbO·PbSO₄. In theory anglesite is the first phase formed during the oxidation of galena¹¹. However, this is only true at very low temperatures. According to other studies¹⁴, lanarkite is actually the phase predominantly formed during the roasting of galena at 600º C⁶. In our case, the anglesite determined was, in fact, already present in the original galena ore although some was also formed during
the decomposition of galena between 600° C and 800° C. The PbO-PbSO₄ phase diagram\(^{11}\) indicates that both PbSO₄ and PbO·PbSO₄, are stable at temperatures below 928° C when a sulphate liquid is formed. In contrast, in our case, a PbO-SiO₂ melt already developed at a lower temperature, ~775° C and anglesite disappeared completely at ~860° C. In addition, the PbO-PbSO₄ phase diagram also indicates that, on further oxidation, lanarkite and 2PbO·PbSO₄ should coexist. However, in our case, lanarkite decomposed completely at 795° C while the lead dioxy-sulphate 2PbO·PbSO₄ was formed which in turn decomposed at 950° C when a melt was formed. During the cooling, two lead oxy-sulphates, 2PbO·PbSO₄ and 4PbO·PbSO₄ recrystallized from the melt; this is consistent with the PbO-PbSO₄ phase diagram where both compounds are stable below 863° C.\(^{11}\) In fact, the presence of these lead oxy-sulphates indicates that a complete oxidation of galena into PbO was not obtained during the heating.

\(3\) Analysis of a misfired lead glaze

The misfired lead glaze exhibits three distinctive areas of different colours: opaque green, opalescent yellowish and transparent honey, Figure 1. Figure 1 (a-c) shows SEM BSE images corresponding to the green, yellow and honey coloured areas respectively. Three types of crystallites are observed in the three areas and all of them contain mainly Pb and S (Figure 1d). Type I crystals appearing light grey are found only in the green glaze, Figure 1(a). Type II crystals, which appear slightly darker in the SEM BSE images, show tabular or elongated sections of euhedral crystals. They also have a similar composition to Type I crystals, Figure 1(d) and are found in both the green and the yellow glazes, Figure 1(a,b). Type III crystals show a similar light grey colour and share the tabular or elongated sections of euhedral crystals as found in Type II. They are present in the three coloured areas of the glaze, Figure 1. However, the chemical
composition of Type III crystals is slightly different to those of Type II; they contain mainly Pb and S, but also some Cl, and minor amounts of Si and Ca, Figure 1(d). Crystallites, Type II and Type III, show a similar atomic contrast in the BSE images. Quantitative chemical analysis of the crystallites is not possible with the EDS detector because of the large overlapping of S-K\(\alpha\), Pb-M\(\alpha\) and Cl-K\(\alpha\) X-ray fluorescent peaks. Consequently, the chemical composition of the crystallites and the glaze is obtained by EPM, using a Wavelength Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy detector system (WDS) with a superior X-ray peak resolution and greater peak to background ratio. The chemical composition of the glaze in wt. % is 73.5 % PbO, 19.6 % SiO\(_2\), 1.5 % Al\(_2\)O\(_3\), 1.5 % SO\(_3\), 1.2 % ZnO, 1.1 % FeO, 0.5 % Na\(_2\)O+K\(_2\)O, 0.2 % CaO, and 0.05 % Cl. The average and standard deviation of the various analyses made on the crystallites are shown in Table I. Type I crystals contain 86.1 wt. % Pb and 13.6 wt. % S and no O, corresponding to galena. Type II and Type III crystallites are identified by SR-\(\mu\)XRD as lanarkite, PbO-PbSO\(_4\), and mattheddleite, a lead silicate sulphate chloride\(^{18-20}\) of composition Pb\(_{10}\)(SiO\(_4\))\(_{3.5}\)(SO\(_4\))\(_2\)Cl\(_2\) respectively, as shown in Figure 6. The chemical composition obtained for the Type II crystals is also in good agreement with those of lanarkite, PbO-PbSO\(_4\). Conversely, the chemical composition determined for the Type III crystallites (Ca\(_{0.04}\)Pb\(_{0.96}\))\(_{10}\)(SiO\(_4\))\(_4\)(SO\(_4\))\(_2\)Cl\(_{0.8}\), differ from the theoretical composition; contains less Cl, some unexpected Ca and unbalanced Si and S. In fact, mattheddleite is a rare mineral of the apatite supergroup (ellestadite) of theoretical composition Pb\(_5\)(SiO\(_4\))\(_{1.5}\)(SO\(_4\))\(_{1.5}\)(Cl,OH)\(^{21}\); the other endmembers of this group are hydroxylellestadite and fluorellestadite of theoretical composition Ca\(_5\)(SiO\(_4\))\(_{1.5}\)(SO\(_4\))\(_{1.5}\)(OH) and Ca\(_5\)(SiO\(_4\))\(_{1.5}\)(SO\(_4\))\(_{1.5}\)F respectively.\(^{20}\) Consequently, calcium may also be incorporated in the structure. The unbalanced Si and S measured by EPM was already noticed and associated to large and inaccurate absorption
corrections occurring when celestite is used as S standard\textsuperscript{21}. In fact, our data is in good agreement with other mattheddleite EPM analysis. In our case, the neo-formed inclusions of mattheddleite integrated available elements from the surrounding environment (glaze) during crystallisation and, particularity incorporated some calcium. The gangue also included some sphalerite grains that explain the presence ZnO in the glaze.

Under the optical microscope (Figure 7) galena is easily recognizable in reflected light, Figure 7c, by its high reflectance and because of the fractures along the cubic planes of exfoliation of some grains. Lanarkite and mattheddleite can be distinguished with crossed polarized light (XPL); lanarkite displays 2\textsuperscript{nd} /3\textsuperscript{rd} order interference colours and inclined extinction (birefringence = 0.108), while mattheddleite has straight extinction and 1\textsuperscript{st} and low 2\textsuperscript{nd} order interference colours (birefringence = 0.018), Figure 7b. In addition, some tabular sections of lanarkite show polysynthetic twins. In reflected light, lanarkite shows relief and a darker contrast than mattheddleite, Figure 7c.

The presence of different crystallites in the glaze is responsible for the various appearances and colours of the three areas: opaque green, translucent yellow and transparent honey. The occurrence of galena grains accounts for the opacity and the presence of Fe\textsuperscript{2+} ions dissolved in the glaze is most probably responsible for the green colour. The concurrence of galena and Fe\textsuperscript{2+} is explained by the glaze exposure to a reducing atmosphere during the firing. The shortage of oxygen is responsible for both, the delayed decomposition of galena and the reduction of the iron ions. A possible cause for this reducing atmosphere might be the exposure of the glazed surface to the flame. The opalescent-yellow and the transparent-honey areas would not have been exposed and, consequently, show the yellow tinge characteristic of Fe\textsuperscript{3+} and of lead glazes. Although both, lanarkite and mattheddleite crystallites are present in the opalescent
yellow area, lanarkite crystallites are responsible for the opalescence, as they have a pearly lustre appearing macroscopically translucent. The transparent-honey area, however, contains only mattheddleite crystallites, which are transparent and show an adamantine lustre.

IV. Discussion

Although the first experimental studies of the PbO-SiO$_2$ system$^9$ indicated that a series of compounds with PbO:SiO$_2$ mole ratios of 4:1, 3:1, 2:1, 1:1, and 5:8 were formed; only PbSiO$_3$, Pb$_2$SiO$_4$ and Pb$_4$SiO$_6$ were confirmed by other research.$^8,22$ Moreover, Jak et al.$^{23}$ found that PbSiO$_3$ and Pb$_2$SiO$_4$ melt congruently while Pb$_4$SiO$_6$ decomposes incongruently. Our high temperature experiment is in perfect agreement with this. Moreover, the temperatures at which the different compounds form and decompose match our data, supporting the validity of our kinetic data.

On the other hand, based on the PbO-PbSO$_4$ phase diagram$^{13}$ for temperatures lower than 860°C, anglesite (PbSO$_4$) and lanarkite (PbO-PbSO$_4$) are the two stable phases. Further oxidation tends to form lanarkite which leads to the subsequent development of first 2PbO-PbSO$_4$ and then 3PbO-PbSO$_4$.$^{24}$

In the PbS-SiO$_2$ system studied, lead silicates are not formed. The lack of lead silicates is probably due to remaining sulphates in the glaze mixture that handicapped the crystallization of the PbO/SiO$_2$ compounds. The oxidation of galena gives rise mainly to the formation of lanarkite (PbO-PbSO$_4$) at a temperature as low as ~315°C disappearing suddenly at 795°C. The sudden disappearance of lanarkite in the PbS-SiO$_2$ system happens at lower temperatures than in the PbO-PbSO$_4$ system. This can be related to the presence of SiO$_2$, which certainly plays a role, giving rise to a PbO-SiO$_2$ melt at ~775°C. The green and yellow areas of the misfired glaze also show the
presence of a silica melt and lanarkite, but not the compounds formed at higher
temperatures. Anglesite is often present in the original galena ore as a weathering
product and, considering that it is stable up to ~860º C, it should be found in the
misfired glaze. Therefore, absence of anglesite could be an indicative that it was not
present in the galena used by ancient potters.

The two basic lead sulfates, \(2\text{PbO} \cdot \text{PbSO}_4\) and \(4\text{PbO} \cdot \text{PbSO}_4\) which are formed after the
lanarkite decomposition in the high temperature experiment, are not found in the honey
area of the historical lead glaze. In fact, the presence of both galena and lanarkite in the
misfired glaze indicates not only a low firing temperature (below 795º C) but also a
short firing. Moreover, the flame also produces a reducing atmosphere, which delays
sulphur oxidation and sulphate decomposition. The green and yellow colours of the
misfired areas also indicate the presence of reduced and oxidised iron respectively.

Therefore, we can also suppose that the lack of oxygen due to the direct hit of the flame
in the area affected the oxidation of galena and lanarkite and the formation of the glaze.
Conversely, the transparent honey glaze shows neither galena nor lanarkite. However,
mattheddleite \(\text{Pb}_5(\text{SiO}_4)_{1.5}(\text{SO}_4)_{1.5}(\text{Cl,OH})\), with some calcium substituting the lead
atoms, is identified. Mattheddleite occurs in oxidized zones of lead deposits, associated
with lanarkite and anglesite and its formation is driven by the presence of chlorine. The
thin cross section shows the sequence of formation of the sulphate compounds in the
glaze. Galena is found surrounded by lanarkite crystals, Figure 7 (a), while lanarkite is
found inside mattheddleite crystals in the green area of the glaze, Figure 8. Therefore,
the sequence of compounds formed during the oxidation of galena is, first lanarkite and
then mattheddleite, provided chlorine is available in the surrounding glaze.

There are two possible sources for the chlorine found in the glazes; it formed part of the
galena mineral or there was contamination during the firing. A very popular lead

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mineral extraction site in Catalonia is the Begur Coast, also known as the coast of the six lead mines. The mines are often flooded by seawater, which could explain the presence of chlorine in the galena gangue. On the other hand, the ashes generated during the firing could also provide chlorine to the surface of the glazes. In fact, the presence of ashes on the glaze surface during the firing could also explain the preferential direction of growth shown by the mattheddeleite crystals –from the glaze surface towards the ceramic body- observed in the yellowish and honey areas of the glaze, Figure 1(b,c).

The supposed disadvantage, initially considered based on the PbO-PbSO₄ phase diagram, of the high temperatures at which the decomposition of the lead sulphates and formation of a melt (~928°C) happen is not correct for the system PbS-SiO₂. Our data shows that in the system PbS-SiO₂ at a temperature as low as 775°C a melt is formed and that at 795°C the lanarkite is already fully decomposed. Nevertheless, adequate oxidation conditions are necessary to help the oxidative process take place. Consequently, optimal firing conditions for the PbS-SiO₂ system are a temperature only slightly higher than those of the PbO-SiO₂ system provided adequate oxidative conditions are guaranteed.

V. Conclusions
The transformations during the production of a lead glaze with galena PbS-SiO₂ were studied by means of a high temperature X-ray Diffraction experiment with Synchrotron Radiation (HT-SR-XRD). The phase transformations and thermal stability of the compounds formed were determined and the results obtained were compared to the available data for the PbO-SiO₂ and PbO-PbSO₄ systems. The oxidation of galena gives rise to the formation of lanarkite, PbO-PbSO₄, at 315°C and its decomposition at
795°C, a temperature lower than those found in the PbO-PbSO₄ system (916°C). Moreover, in agreement with the PbO-PbSO₄ system, once lanarkite decomposes, two basic lead sulfates, 2PbO·PbSO₄ and 4PbO·PbSO₄ form. Lead silicates do not form in the PbS-SiO₂ system contrary to what is observed in the PbO-SiO₂ system where they form at temperatures above 750°C. The presence of lead sulphates in the silicate melt prevent the formation of the lead silicates. The results obtained show that the optimal firing conditions for the PbS-SiO₂ system are, a temperature rather similar to the PbO-SiO₂ system, but when galena is used, highly oxidative conditions need to be guaranteed in order to eliminate sulphur from the glaze.

A historical misfired lead glaze still retaining relics of galena was also studied and the crystalline phases developed were identified. Different colour areas - green, yellow and honey- showing different crystalline compounds of the glaze, were discussed. Galena, lanarkite, PbO·PbSO₄ and mattheddleite, (Ca,Pb)₁₀(SiO₄)₃.₅(SO₄)₂Cl₂ were identified. The crystallites are responsible for the opaque green (galena, lanarkite and mattheddleite), opalescent-yellow (lanarkite and mattheddleite) and transparent-honey (mattheddleite) colours observed on the surface of the sample. The presence of galena and lanarkite indicates a maximum temperature of 795°C, although the reducing action of the flame could have delayed sulphur and sulphate oxidation even at higher temperatures. The crystallization of mattheddleite and its directional growth from the surface towards the glaze could be explained by the deposition of plant ashes on the glaze surface during the firing.
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Figure 1. The neck of a 18th century jar which exhibit a misfired glaze showing three colour glaze areas. SEM backscattering images of (A) the opaque green area which contains relics of galena (I) and neoformed crystallites II and III, (B) the translucent
yellow area containing crystallites II and III and, (C) the honey transparent area containing only crystallites III. (E) EDS spectra of the three types of crystallites.

Figure 2. High temperature XRD patterns (HT-SR-XRD) obtained during the firing of 70 wt. % PbO - 30 wt. % SiO\(_2\). The XRD patterns corresponding to the initial mixture before heating (bottom) and after cooling (top) are also shown.

Figure 3. High temperature XRD patterns (HT-SR-XRD) obtained during the firing of the mixture 75 wt. % PbS – 30 wt. % SiO\(_2\). The XRD patterns corresponding to the initial mixture before heating (bottom) and after cooling (top) are also shown.

Figure 4. Thermal stability ranges of the crystalline phases identified for (a) PbO-SiO\(_2\) and (b) PbS-SiO\(_2\). The ordinate axis is obtained from the intensity of the principal peak of each crystalline phase relative to the intensity of the MgO crucible, and gives a qualitative temperature evolution of each compound.

Figure 5. Selection of HT-SR-XRD patterns of the final firing stage for the mixture PbS-SiO\(_2\).

Figure 6. SR-\(\mu\)XRD pattern of the crystallites in the misfired glazes. The reference patterns marked correspond to the JPDF database patterns 01-071-2069 for lanarkite and 00-041-0610 for mattheddleite.

Figure 7. OM images of the green area glaze. (a) PPL transmitted light showing opaque grains of galena (I), transparent crystals of lanarkite (II) and mattheddleite (III); (b) XPL transmitted light where the elongated section of the mattheddleite crystals shows a 1st order grey colour, the hexagonal basal sections are extinguished: the elongated and prismatic sections of lanarkite exhibit 2nd /3rd order interference colours; marked with
an arrow, a twin; (c) reflected light, galena (I) appears very reflectant, mattheddleite (III) exhibits lower relief than lanarkite (II); (d) XPL transmitted light with ¼ lambda compensator.

Figure 8. OM image in reflected light of a lanarkite crystallite inside a crystal of mattheddleite

Table 1. Average and standard deviation (in parenthesis) of the chemical composition of the crystallites measured by EPM. N number of crystallites measured. The oxygen is calculated by stoichiometry.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Wt% Pb</th>
<th>S</th>
<th>Si</th>
<th>Cl</th>
<th>Ca</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>Sum</th>
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<td>Type I</td>
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<td>86.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>(0.1)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
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<td>(0.3)</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(0.8)</td>
<td>(0.1)</td>
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<td>(0.1)</td>
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<td>(0.2)</td>
<td>(1.1)</td>
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<td></td>
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