My Lord,

As nothing could give me greater pleasure than obeying any command your Lordship should lay on me, it has been no small mortification to me that I have been obliged to defer executing what you desired so long. The only persons that I think qualified for such a performance have been incessantly employed in some alterations which I have been making in the Theatre, and which are not as yet completed. Nor should I have deferred so long to have acquainted your Lordship with the cause of this delay but that I have been excessively harassed in making preparations for our theatrical campaign, and in disciplining some new troops. If your Lordship has leisure to acquaint me what dimensions you would have the bread and cheese of, and what part of the Hermitage they are to stand in I shall endeavour to get them finished as well as can be expected in this town, where all Arts are but little
encouraged and consequently are in no very flourishing condition. This considering my Lady Orrery's Aversion to Mice perhaps she may not be displeased if they are not over inaccurately done, for if the Similitude were very strong they might deceive and entice those Animals as the Grapes painted by the Grecian Artist did the Birds. I must beg your Lordship will be so good as to present my Duty to her Ladyship, & to believe that I am with the highest Esteem & Respect your Lordship's most obedient and devoted servant.

October 3, 1747

Thomas Sheridan