Amulets are small, portable objects with spiritual, medical, and aesthetic functions. Although widely used in cultures around the world and eagerly collected by museums, they defy our understanding and efforts at categorization. This talk will examine a set of amulets held at the Mathers Museum, collected by an American pseudo-missionary in central Congo in the mid-1920s, comparing them to similar pieces (from a variety of other cultures) held at the Royal Museum for Central Africa in Belgium. It will also consider evidence of continued use of amulets, despite the efforts of medical doctors and missionaries in the early twentieth century to eliminate them.